



# **Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen**

## *House Committee on Appropriations*

---

### **FY 2018 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill - Full Committee Markup** **July 18, 2017** **Opening Statement As Prepared**

---

This bill demonstrates our ironclad commitment to safeguarding our homeland and protecting our citizens. In total, it provides \$44.3 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Homeland Security to fulfill its mandate to secure the nation from the many threats we face – whether that is terrorism, criminals and illegal goods crossing our borders, or dangerous attacks on our cyber networks.

This is \$1.9 billion above the fiscal year 2017, a strong investment in the security of this nation – our families, neighbors, schools and businesses.

Critical resources are directed to Customs and Border protection to improve infrastructure and technology and put boots on the ground. This includes \$1.6 billion for physical barrier construction along the Southern border, and \$100 million to hire 500 new Border Patrol agents.

The bill also provides \$7 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement to ensure our laws are being followed. This includes funding for additional law enforcement officers, detention and removal programs, investigation programs that fight human trafficking, drug smuggling, and cybercrime.

To protect our coasts and stem the flow of illegal goods into and out of the country, the bill provides \$10.5 billion in funding for the Coast Guard. This includes a 2.1% pay raise for the loyal servicemen and women serving our country in the Coast Guard.

This legislation addresses other 21<sup>st</sup> century threats to our nation as well – namely securing our cyber infrastructure against dangerous hacking and cyberattacks. Investments into the National Protection and Programs directorate will enhance the security of our cyberspace.

Further, the bill ensures our nation is ready and able to respond to any emergencies or natural disasters by fully funding FEMA’s disaster relief account. In addition, \$2.7 billion is provided for FEMA grant programs that support our first responders – the first line of defense in our communities.

I would like to thank the subcommittee – led by Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard – as well as the staff, for their thoughtful work on this bill.

This Committee – and this Congress – has no higher priority than protecting our Homeland – keeping all of our families, neighbors, schools, and businesses safe from ever-changing and growing threats. This bill fulfills this duty, and I am proud to support it today.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

#####



# **Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen**

---

## *House Committee on Appropriations*

**FY 2018 Interior Appropriations Bill  
Full Committee Markup  
July 18, 2017  
Opening Statement**

---

Thank you for your comments, and for your efforts that brought this bill before the Committee today. I'm grateful to you and all the members of your Subcommittee – as well as the staff – for your good work on this legislation.

Preserving our natural resources for future generations is a responsibility we all share. The bill prioritizes critical programs that steward our air, land, and water – within a tight budget – while also reining in burdensome regulations that destroy economic opportunity.

This includes providing funding for wildfire fighting and prevention, and prioritizing funding for our historic and natural treasures – including our National Park Service.

Other investments are targeted to protect human health and the environment – such as the Chemical Safety Board, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and U.S. Geological Survey programs. In addition, the bill fulfills our obligations to American Indians and Alaska Natives, and supports the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program.

Overall funding for the EPA is \$7.5 billion – a reduction of \$527 million from current levels. This funding level will ensure the agency is able to fulfill its core duties, while streamlining the agency and reshaping its workforce. I am especially pleased to see the investments made to support Superfund site cleanup efforts.

The bill also reflects the need to cut back on job-killing red tape that burdens American families and businesses.

Several provisions are included that will stop bureaucratic overreach and encourage economic growth – including language that authorizes the EPA Administrator and the Secretary of the Army to withdraw the Waters of the United States rule.

Again, I thank the Subcommittee for bringing this solid bill before the committee today. I ask my colleagues to support it.

#####