



Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

House Committee on Appropriations

Full Committee Markup – FY 2019 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill

May 16, 2018

Opening Statement As Prepared

I'm pleased we are continuing our progress on our Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations bills by marking up the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill – one of several bills that supports for the common defense of this nation.

Supporting the strongest possible nuclear deterrent is a critical aspect of our national security strategy – particularly at this time of rapidly shifting global dynamics. This includes maintaining an effective nuclear arsenal, preserving our Navy's nuclear-powered fleet, and securing vulnerable nuclear materials to keep them out of the hands of terrorists and other bad actors.

We must ensure that the United States continues to be the standard-bearer for these capabilities – to prevent any possibility of nuclear war, and to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons around the world.

In addition to fulfilling these crucial responsibilities, the bill also makes important investments in our water and power infrastructure – programs that help our economy grow and thrive. This includes a \$451 million increase for the Army Corps of Engineers to continue its critical work on our ports and waterways, which carry billions in U.S. commerce each year.

Targeted funding for energy research and development will support U.S. economic growth and competitiveness – keeping us at the forefront of technology, reducing prices for U.S. energy consumers, and helping advance the nation's goal of an "all-of-the-above" solution to energy independence.

I'm glad to see this legislation continues congressional efforts to support the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository. The nation must take responsibility for its nuclear waste, and provide a safe, sustainable solution for disposal. It's time we continue the necessary work toward making this a reality, and this bill makes those important steps.

I'm also pleased that this bill also makes the necessary investments to secure our nation's energy infrastructure against cyber and other attacks. As such attacks ramp up, we must be prepared to fight and stop this security breaches that put our lives and livelihoods at risk.

In sum, this is a very good bill that makes smart use of taxpayer dollars for important national priorities. I thank the entire subcommittee, along with the staff, for the diligent work on this bill.

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Full Committee Markup – FY 2019 Agriculture Appropriations Bill

May 16, 2018

Opening Statement As Prepared

Thank you both for your remarks and for your good work on this very important bill. In my home state of New Jersey – the Garden State – we know the importance of having good, healthy food on our tables – like New Jersey raspberries and blueberries, corn, and tomatoes.

This bill helps ensure that America’s farmers and food producers can maintain a vibrant and productive food supply that provides stability and security for American families.

As Chairman Aderholt highlighted, in total, this bill provides \$23.27 billion in funding for these important agricultural and food programs and services.

In particular, I’m pleased that this bill targets funding for the Food and Drug Administration’s food, pharmaceutical, and medical device safety programs, preserving our status as the gold standard in these areas. This also includes investments to accelerate the development of key medical products and to fight opioid abuse.

Food safety and inspection services are also a priority – with a total of \$1.05 billion provided to ensure that safe meat, poultry, and egg products are available for purchase.

In addition, this bill includes funding for programs like SNAP and WIC that provide wholesome, nutritious food for American children and their families at their times of greatest need.

As we enter the summer months, we especially see the importance of programs that ensure children in underserved communities have access to meals when school isn’t in session.

A healthy and robust food supply starts with America’s farmers and ranchers. This bill provides funding for important agricultural research, animal and plant health, and other farm programs that support our agricultural producers. This includes programs that fight devastating crop diseases and plant and animal pests, and improve food safety and water quality.

The bill also makes investments in rural infrastructure and development that create an environment for economic growth – such as access to broadband, improved water and waste systems, and housing.

And the bill provides funding to ensure diligent oversight of financial marketplaces. Beyond this important funding, I’m glad to see the bill makes steps to remove duplicative or burdensome regulations that can adversely affect our food supply and harm American industry.

In closing, I’d like to thank the subcommittee, along with staff, for their great work on this legislation. I urge the committee to support it.

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