



Chairman Mike Simpson

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

Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations Bill for Energy and Water Development

Opening Statement (as prepared)

May 16, 2018

Thank you Chairman Frelinghuysen.

I am pleased to present to the Committee the fiscal year 2019 Energy and Water bill.

Before I review the recommendation, I'd like to thank Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey for their strong leadership, understanding of this bill, and support for the important work addressed in it.

I would also like to especially thank my Ranking Member. Ms. Kaptur continues to be a helpful partner in carrying out the subcommittee's work, and the bill we recommend today is better for her input.

The recommendation totals \$44.7 billion, which is \$1.5 billion more than last year's level and \$8.2 billion above the budget request. This is a responsible bill, focusing increases over last year to those areas that are the most inherently federal responsibilities – to provide for our nation's defense and support our nation's infrastructure.

The recommendation provides a total of \$15.3 billion for the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons security programs, including Weapons Activities, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, and Naval Reactors – a \$644 million increase above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level and \$222 million above the President's budget request. It aligns with the Administration's Nuclear Posture Review, which calls for continuing to maintain a strong nuclear deterrent to meet the challenges of a changing security environment, revitalizing the nuclear complex, and supporting effective arms control and nonproliferation efforts.

This recommendation includes strong funding for the Army Corps of Engineers – \$451 million more than last year – and \$2.5 billion more than the budget request to address our nation’s critical infrastructure needs. Harbor Maintenance activities are funded at \$1.6 billion, which is \$200 million more than fiscal year 2018. The level exceeds the WRDA annual target by \$160 million and represents 95 percent of estimated revenues.

This bill includes strong funding for Nuclear Energy, providing research and development to ensure a safe, efficient, and reliable nuclear fleet and laying the foundation for the next generation of nuclear reactors. The recommendation also advances Fossil Energy Research and Development to ensure the nation is utilizing its abundant fossil energy resources as efficiently and safely as possible.

The bill accepts the Administration’s proposal to better highlight ongoing cybersecurity and energy security activities by creating a separate account. Funding for this new account, CESER, is \$146 million, \$50 million above last year after adjusting for the structure change.

Funding for the Office of Science is \$6.6 billion, an increase of \$340 million above last year’s level, to keep the national laboratories and America’s researchers at the forefront of global scientific discovery.

This bill includes almost \$6.9 billion for the Department of Energy’s Office of Environmental Management, to carry out the federal government’s responsibilities to clean up five decades of nuclear weapons development and production.

Finally, the recommendation includes strong support for advancing the Yucca Mountain license application, providing \$100 million more than the budget request, for a total of \$267.7 million to the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. We simply cannot wait any longer to finish the license application process and proceed to construction and operation of the permanent repository.

This is a strong bill, in no small part due to the input of the Members of this Committee. Its prioritization of our national security interests and our most pressing infrastructure needs will advance the economy.

I urge everyone to support this bill.

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