



Chairman Robert Aderholt

*Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations*

FY2019 - Member's Day Hearing Opening Statement (as prepared) April 25, 2018

The Subcommittee will come to order.

I want to recognize that the Agriculture Subcommittee is holding this hearing to give our colleagues a chance to provide input as we move forward in crafting the Agriculture Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2019. I am hopeful that our bill will build upon the bipartisan success of our fiscal year 2018 Ag Appropriations bill where we were able to work together to provide increases for agriculture research, to combat plant and animal health concerns, and for vital programs at the Food and Drug Administration. The bill also made a significant investment of more than \$4 billion in USDA Rural Development programs, specifically providing over \$685 million to expand broadband services and more than \$3 billion for rural water and waste programs. I was pleased to work with my colleague and friend, the Ranking Member Mr. Bishop, in delivering a robust appropriations bill that will help America's farmers, ranchers, consumers, and rural communities.

Turning to FY 19, the Agriculture Subcommittee has received 5,944 Member requests, a slight increase from last year, covering a wide range of programs and priorities. We are pleased to receive such interest in the bill and look forward to reviewing these submissions. As clearly demonstrated in FY 18 and previous fiscal years, the Subcommittee will make every effort to accommodate Members' requests, working within the funding allocation that will be given to the Subcommittee.

I would note that we find ourselves crafting the FY 19 Ag Appropriations bill at the same time a new Farm Bill is under consideration. I want to remind Members that those issues that are authorizing and seek to make policy changes to the underlying statutes are better debated during the Farm Bill process. I commend House Ag Committee Chairman Conaway for moving the process forward since

the Farm Bill expires this September, and I look forward to House consideration of the Farm Bill.

With that, I would like to recognize the distinguished Ranking Member, Mr. Bishop, for any comments he may have. Mr. Bishop?

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