



## **Chairman Robert Aderholt**

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

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**OPENING REMARKS** (as prepared)  
**Agriculture Subcommittee Markup**  
**May 9, 2018**

Good Afternoon.

You have before you this afternoon the Chairman's mark for the FY 2019 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The Subcommittee's discretionary allocation is \$23.273 billion and this bill was written to that level -- a \$14 million increase from fiscal year 2018.

This year the Subcommittee received nearly 6,000 bill and report requests submitted by 355 members. These bipartisan requests covered every aspect of our bill and highlighted the importance of and impact that the programs under this Subcommittee's jurisdiction have on the everyday lives of all Americans. We have tried to address these requests in a bipartisan manner by providing programmatic funding or by including language in the bill or report in accordance with House rules.

There are a few topics I would like to highlight this afternoon. First, this Bill provides over \$3 billion for Rural Development discretionary programs as well as \$37.8 billion in loan levels for rural housing, rural business, and rural utility programs. I, like many of you on the Committee, come from a rural district. The investments we are making in this Bill reflect our commitment to investing in the infrastructure of rural America. This bill includes funding for critical rural development programs, including the water and wastewater loan and grant programs, broadband deployment programs, several housing programs, and resources for programs operated by the Rural Business Cooperative Service.

Resources have also been provided to ensure all Rental Assistance contracts that serve very low income residents will be renewed.

Second, this bill provides \$3.1 billion to continue addressing critical research issues affecting agriculture, which will not only ensure our nation has a stable and abundant food supply but also maintains our country's competitiveness in the global marketplace. We do not support the proposed closure of 20 research facilities included in the budget request. The bill also provides continued investment in ARS buildings and facilities consistent with the ARS' Capital Investment Strategy.

Third, the bill provides targeted increases for animal and plant pests and diseases. In particular, we have increased funding to help address the devastating effects of citrus greening as well as maintained funding to address disease threats to the poultry industry.

To support America's farmers and ranchers, who are vital to our Nation's economy and our health and well-being, the bill provides important funding for farm loans and conservation programs. The \$1.7 billion for the Farm Production and Conservation mission area ensures that local county Farm Service Agency offices will be fully staffed and farm loan programs meet current estimates of demand, especially at a time when producers navigate the challenging farm economy and foreign trade markets.

The Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission area receives \$1.9 billion in funding to promote U.S. agricultural exports, remove barriers to trade, and provide U.S. commodities to those in need overseas through the Food for Peace, Food for Progress, and McGovern-Dole International Food for Education programs.

Additionally, this bill provides funding for all of USDA's nutrition programs at levels that ensure all eligible participants will receive the assistance they need. This Subcommittee has a proven track record of providing ample nutrition funding; therefore, some programs have large carryover balances which is reflected in the allocations for FY 2019.

The bill also provides \$255 million for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, a justifiable increase for an agency with new regulatory responsibilities in the financial technology and virtual currency markets such as Bitcoin.

For the Food and Drug Administration, the bill provides a \$3.1 billion direct appropriation to assist the FDA in protecting and promoting public health. A highlight of the bill is inclusion of a \$308 million increase for Medical Product Safety. This marks one of the largest, if not the largest, investment in the advancement of medical innovation, competition, and regulatory science as it relates to FDA. Within this increase, the Bill provides support for manufacturing of safe and effective therapeutics, including continuous manufacturing of drugs and biological products; generic drug manufacturing, rare diseases, transformation of digital health, and FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence. The bill continues to support the food safety activities associated with the Food Safety Modernization Act. This Subcommittee has provided more than \$300 million for FSMA activities since 2011. This bill also provides \$70 million in new funds from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures legislation.

In closing, I ask for your support of the bill.

Now, I will ask the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. Bishop, for his opening remarks. Then we will turn to the distinguished Chairman of the Full Committee, Mr. Frelinghuysen, and the distinguished Ranking Member of full Committee, Mrs. Lowey, for any remarks they may have.

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