



# **Chairman Hal Rogers**

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## **House Committee on Appropriations**

### **Subcommittee Markup**

### **FY 2015 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies**

### **Appropriations Bill**

### **June 10, 2014**

### **Opening Statement As Prepared**

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

We have before us today the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations bill for Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies, which is funded at the discretionary level of \$34.01 billion. I would like to thank Chairman Simpson, Ranking Member Kaptur and staff on both sides for their efforts to prepare for this markup today.

I am pleased with the pace we are moving through this year's appropriations process. Yesterday, we began our debate on the Transportation and HUD bill, which we hope to finish today, and tomorrow, we will be taking up the Agriculture Appropriations bill on the floor. With the passage of those bills, we will be nearly halfway through our work here in the House. I thank my colleagues on both sides for the work you have done to help get our work done in this manner.

Today, we have before this subcommittee the bill appropriating funding for our nation's energy and water resources. This bill always involves difficult choices because it affects so many communities across our country, but I believe this legislation strikes an appropriate balance to adequately support vital energy research, nuclear security programs, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' critical investments in our country's water-based infrastructure. Specifically, the bill ensures that the Army Corps continues its vital mission of maintaining the country's water resources and flood mitigation projects, while also ensuring that our local communities that are in need of attention are not forgotten. Additionally, this bill puts the focus on energy research that relies on promising technology advancements, and provides over \$8 billion for the modernization of our nuclear weapons stockpile and to ensure that the infrastructure that supports our nuclear capability is up to the latest standards of excellence.

Of particular importance to me as a representative of a region that has been incredibly hard-hit by this Administration's misguided energy and environmental policies, I am proud that this legislation makes targeted investments in fossil energy research and takes strides to roll back some of this Administration's damaging regulatory attacks on the coal industry and others. We provide \$593 million -- \$31 million above the President's woefully inadequate request -- to promote new fossil energy technologies so that we can get more bang for our buck out of these resources, which are abundantly available in the United States. I am dismayed at efforts that this Administration has undertaken with the express purpose of eliminating coal from our nation's energy supply, despite the fact that this fuel provides a cheap, abundant source of energy that

keeps energy costs down and productivity up. In this bill, we stand firm against new attempts to add layers of environmental red tape to any economic development that our states, counties, and cities may undertake, like new proposals to change the definition of “Fill Material”, which would shut down coal mines throughout the country, and the new “Waters of the United States” proposal in which the EPA seeks to gain jurisdiction over most of the country by claiming authority to regulate dry beds, ditches, and anywhere water could conceivably run. These efforts are fruitless attempts to legislate through regulation, and the Congress must exercise its prerogative to prevent this kind of bureaucratic overreach that would be crippling for the U.S. economy.

I am proud that we continue to uphold our commitment to the American people to move our bills through regular order and at a quick pace. This is a good bill, and it deserves the support of each Subcommittee member.

Thank you, and I yield back.

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