

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE (TX-18)

**STATEMENT BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, WATER, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

**MEMBER DAY HEARING ON
ENERGY, WATER, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FY2020
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019
2362-B RAYBURN
10:00 A.M.**

Chairwoman Kaptur, Ranking Member Simpson and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee:

- As a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, let me offer my appreciation and thanks to Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson for the difficult work and choices that must be made to produce a truly bipartisan Energy and Water spending bill, for their commitment to producing a bill that fairly reflects the interests and priorities of the American people, and for their cooperation in working with me to ensure that the victims of Hurricane Harvey received the assistance and resources needed to recover from one of the greatest water catastrophes in recent memory.
- Madam Chair, I understand that my entire statement will be made part of the record so I will keep my remarks brief.
- In the few minutes allotted I wish to highlight the energy, water, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer programs which warrant the Committee's continuing attention and support.

ENERGY AND WATER PROGRAMS

I support \$1.59 billion for Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund

The Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) is collected to ensure reliable maintenance and operation of our nation's ports. I strongly support full utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, and urge the Committee to fund harbor maintenance activities at the highest possible level.

I support \$270 million for Weatherization Assistance Program

WAP helps low-income families, seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities improve the energy efficiency of their homes, freeing up limited resources for other essentials like food and medicine

I support \$6.0 million for U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Program

This funding will be utilized to further implement Section 917 of the Energy Independence and Security Act, P.L. 110-140, and the May 2008 agreement between the U.S. and Israel on energy cooperation. The funding will provide for ongoing collaborative U.S. and Israeli research and development efforts in the fields of energy technologies and increased energy efficiency.

I support \$120 million for DOE's Wind Energy Program

The Wind Energy Program improves our nation's renewable energy goals by furthering advancements in wind energy research and technologies, including wind energy project design, optimization, and testing. The program also conducts important research to increase capacity for distributed wind, which has the ability to harness the full potential of rural America to play a major role to lower the costs for consumers.

I support \$2.6 billion for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

The DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) and its critical programs partner the federal government with industry, academia, and research facilities to secure America's energy future.

I support \$7.0 billion for DOE Office of Science

This request provides funding to operate the scientific user facilities at optimal levels in support of more than 31,000 researchers from universities, national laboratories, industry, and international partners. The request funds activities that, in close coordination with the NIH and the Presidential BRAIN Initiative, will develop next-generation tools and technologies to support research into the brain.

I support \$70 million for State Energy Program

This funding will allow states to take on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and grid modernization projects, including: starting rebate programs to encourage purchasing energy-saving appliances; efficiency improvements of hospitals and school; working with utilities and energy service companies to install wind, solar and energy efficiency projects and to improve resilience and modernize the grid.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

I support \$175 million for Army Corps of Engineers Investigations

The Army Corps of Engineers does vital work that requires cooperation with other agencies. This appropriation funds studies to determine the need, engineering

feasibility, and economic and environmental return to the Nation of potential solutions to water and related land resource problems; preconstruction engineering and design; and related data collection, interagency coordination, and research.

I support \$73 million for Continuing Authorities Program

This request would provide funding for USACE Civil Works Program in the following amounts: Section 14, Emergency Streambank Protection, \$8 million; Section 103, Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction, \$4 million; Section 107, Small Navigation Improvements, \$8 million; Section 111, Shoreline Damage Attributable to a Federal Navigation Project, \$8 million; Section 204, Beneficial Uses of Dredged Materials, \$10 million; Section 205, Flood Control Project, \$15 million; Section 206, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, \$12 million; Section 1135, Project Modifications for Improvement of the Environment, \$8 million.

I support \$5.5 million for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Water Operations Technical Support (WOTS) program

These reservoirs provide invaluable flood control, water supply, recreation, and stream flow regulation. Recent droughts, including the devastating drought impacting California, highlight the need for the Corps to access the latest weather and seasonal forecasting observations, which may offer the opportunity for improved operations increasing water supply while maintaining critical flood control.

I support \$7.5 million for Coastal and Ocean Data System (CODS)

CODS provides high-resolution observations and models of coastal ocean waves and shoreline change. Through a network of over 50 wave buoys, CODS measures, models, forecasts and publicly disseminates real-time coastal wave information in 14 states and island territories. Without these data, life and property would be at risk.

CONCLUSION

Madam Chairwoman, I thank you and the Ranking Member for your leadership and for extending me this opportunity to share my major priorities with the Subcommittee.