



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

Fiscal Year 2015 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill

Subcommittee Markup

April 3, 2014

Opening Statement As Prepared

Thank you, Chairman Cole and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz, for your hard work on the Fiscal Year 2015 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill we have before us today. I wish to extend my congratulations to each of you and the subcommittee staffs on both sides who have put in long hours to craft this important piece of legislation.

Today marks the first day of subcommittee markups for FY15. I am proud of the work that this committee is doing to move along at a brisk pace to complete our work by August. So far we have conducted dozens of hearings, which are still ongoing, and we will begin marking up bills in full committee next week. I want to thank all of my colleagues on this committee for the work they have contributed during this year's incredibly hectic appropriations season.

The bill before us today provides \$3.32 billion for the operations of the Legislative Branch, excluding items for the Senate that are traditionally determined by that body. This will keep us at the same level we achieved with the FY14 omnibus bill. While cuts in recent years have required some belt tightening in our offices, committees and agencies, it is unavoidable that the Congress must live by the same financial realities that are facing every branch of government and every family in the country.

I am always proud to show off our Capitol building to my constituents when they come to visit Washington. This building is one of the most enduring symbols of our great nation. All across the globe, our Capitol dome is equated with freedom and the values we hold dear. The bill we have before us today provides not only for the legislative functioning of our republic, but also provides for critical funding for the maintenance of our historic buildings, refurbishment of the Capitol Dome, the operations of the Library of Congress and Botanic Gardens, Capitol Visitor Center, and for the safety and security of Members, staff, and thousands of visitors who come to our offices. It is crucial to our democracy that we maintain our buildings, but we must also be mindful of limited resources and have efficient operations here in Washington.

This markup today demonstrates our continued commitment to moving all of our bills to the floor by August through regular order. I commend Chairman Cole for a job well-done and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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