



Chairman Tom Graves

*Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
House Committee on Appropriations*

**Subcommittee Markup – FY 2016 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill
April 23, 2015
Opening Statement As Prepared**

The recommendation for FY 2016 provides \$3.3 billion, excluding Senate items, which are traditionally left to the Senate to determine. This is equivalent to last year's level and a decrease of \$172.3 million, or 4.9%, from the requested level.

Details of the bill and report have been shared with the Members. I will provide a quick summary of the highlights and the recommendations before us today.

The bill includes \$1.2 billion for the operations of the House. This is equivalent to last year's enacted level and the request. The funding provided for Leadership, Member's Representational Allowances and Committees provides for current operations, and I do not anticipate further reductions in the coming year. Language is included to continue the freeze on Member's pay.

The bill includes \$369 million for the Capitol Police, nearly \$10 million below the requested level. However, this will support 1,775 sworn officers and 370 civilian positions. This amount is provided to ensure the Capitol Police maintain current operations.

The bill includes \$47.3 million for the Congressional Budget Office, which is the same as the request. These funds are meant in part to allow CBO to perform the dynamic scoring requested of it starting with the 114th Congress.

The bill includes \$496.9 million for the Architect of the Capitol, excluding Senate items. This is a decrease of \$9 million from last year's enacted level.

The Subcommittee recognizes the continuing challenge of preserving and maintaining our infrastructure and prioritizing critical projects in the current budgetary environment.

Accordingly, the bill includes \$62 million for the restoration and renovation of the Cannon House Office Building previously funded from the House Historic Building Revitalization Fund. We are also authorizing the Architect of the Capitol to incur obligations from the Revitalization Fund, which shall not exceed \$162.4 million. This authorization will provide the necessary funding to complete Phase Zero and Phase One, Year One of the continuation of the Cannon Renewal Project pending a plan submitted to the Comptroller General and approved by the Committee.

Additionally, \$10 million is included for the Revitalization Fund to finance major repairs and renovations to facilities of the House.

Further, the Subcommittee has a heightened awareness of the magnitude of the Cannon project, and accordingly has included bill language that places a 25% cap on the amount available for any project in excess of \$5 million.

The language requires the Architect to submit to the Comptroller General and the Committee on Appropriations for approval a project plan covering any changes to the project's schedule and cost, and a description of the accounting and safeguards implemented to ensure the project is on time and on budget.

This language is designed to only cover the larger projects in this bill.

As it stands today, four of the projects in the bill would be subject to these reporting requirements, including exterior stone and metal preservation in the Capitol, the Rayburn garage rehabilitation, the Cannon project, and chiller replacement at the Capitol Power Plant.

The bill includes \$591.4 million for the Library of Congress. While this is \$33 million below the requested level, this amount will allow the Library to continue at current operations. In addition, it includes \$5.5 million in funding for the Deacidification Program.

The Committee, however, has serious concerns about the recent Government Accountability Office report on the Information Technology of the Library of Congress. The Committee will be working with the Library in the upcoming months to track the progress the Library makes on addressing the recommendations of the GAO report.

An increase for the Copyright Office is provided. This will help reduce the processing time for copyright claims and registrations and to conduct an analysis of the copyright registration process.

The bill includes \$110 million for the Government Publishing Office, which is \$9.8 million below last year's enacted level.

The bill includes \$522 million for the Government Accountability Office, which is \$31 million below the requested level.

Finally, given our current fiscal environment, this bill includes \$1 million for the costs associated with the orderly shutdown of the Open World Leadership Center, which is \$4.7 million below last year's enacted level.

I would like to thank Ranking Member Debbie Wasserman Schultz for her role throughout the process. Also, I extend my appreciation to all the members of the Subcommittee for their participation in the process this year.

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