



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

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

Thank you, Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz, for your hard work on the Fiscal Year 2016 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 worked together to produce this important bill. This is the third bill to be marked up in subcommittee this year and I am pleased with the brisk pace at which we are working. It is truly a testament to the strong work ethic of the Members of this subcommittee and their staff.

The bill before us today provides \$3.3 billion for the operations of the Legislative Branch, excluding items for the Senate that are traditionally determined by that body. This legislation will maintain the funding level appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2015 Omnibus bill, and comes in at \$172.3 million below the President's request.

It is always a great privilege of mine to show constituents around our Capitol building when they come to visit Washington. This building is one of the most enduring symbols of our great nation, and the work we do here directly impacts families and communities across the country. So, it is only right that we should acknowledge the financial realities that they face each day in crafting this bill. In this legislation, we reaffirm our commitment to responsible use of taxpayer dollars by continuing the cuts made in recent years to our office and committee budgets, eliminating waste in Congress's support agencies, and ensuring keen oversight of construction and renovation projects.

The bill we have before us provides for the maintenance of our historic buildings, as well as the operations of the Library of Congress, Botanic Gardens, and Capitol Visitor Center, which service millions of visitors to our nation's Capitol each year. This bill also provides the necessary funding to ensure the safety and security of Members, staff, and constituents who visit our offices. It is crucial to our nation and to our constituents that we maintain our buildings and the services they provide, but we must also be mindful of limited resources we have to work with.

This markup today demonstrates our continued commitment to being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and moving all of our bills to the floor in a timely manner. I commend this subcommittee for their good work on this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

#####