

**Chairman Robert Aderholt  
FY 2014 Budget Hearing  
USDA Rural Development  
Opening Statement As Prepared  
April 24, 2013**

Good morning. I would like to welcome Mr. Doug O'Brien, Deputy Under Secretary, Rural Development; Mr. John Padalino, Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service; Ms. Lillian Salerno, Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service; Ms. Tammye Trevino, Administrator, Rural Housing Service; and Mr. Mike Young, USDA's Budget Director to the Subcommittee to discuss the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) budget request for fiscal year 2014 for its Rural Development mission area.

As noted in the testimony, USDA is the sole federal department charged with serving the needs of Americans who live in the rural parts of this nation.

It seems that I've seen this budget request before and is hard to believe that once again USDA proposes very large cuts for the programs, such as Single Family Direct Loans and Water and Waste Disposal grants, that matter the most in rural America. Instead, the administration seems to have placed its focus on a new \$55 million economic development program that has not been reviewed by Congress.

As the only federal department dedicated to rural America, I have to wonder if this budget request is truly in tune with its needs, especially the needs of rural Americans with the lowest incomes.