

Chairman Rodney Alexander
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
House Committee on Appropriations
Full Committee Markup
Fiscal Year 2014 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill
July 18, 2013
Opening Statement As Prepared

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is my honor to present to the Full Committee the fiscal year 2014 appropriations bill for the Legislative Branch. I would like to thank Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz and the other Members of the Subcommittee for their participation in putting this bill together. Also, I would like to thank the Full Committee, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey for their support.

The recommendation for FY 2014 provides \$3.2 billion, excluding Senate items, which are traditionally left to the Senate to determine. This is a decrease of \$113 million, or 3.4% from the FY 2013 level and a decrease of \$310 million, or 8.8% from the requested level. We are \$57 million or 1.4% over sequestration levels. We have made critical decisions and prioritized programs. We have been able to do this by maintaining current operations for our agencies, and in a few instances providing slight increases for high priorities.

It is worthy to note that the funding provided for Member's Representational Allowances and Committees provides for current operations, and I do not anticipate further reductions in the coming year.

A slight increase above sequestration is recommended to ensure the Capitol Police maintain current operations, restore essential training, and begin the first year of operations and maintenance of the new radio system.

The Subcommittee recognizes the continuing challenge of preserving and maintaining our infrastructure and prioritizing critical projects in the current budgetary environment. It is important to note, \$16 million is recommended for the Interior Phase of the Dome Restoration, a very high priority of this Committee. In addition, we are continuing the four year practice of including funds for the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund. A fund established by Ms. Wasserman Shultz when she was Chair of this Subcommittee in anticipation of the renovation of the historic Cannon House Office Building.

Funding for the Library of Congress is equivalent to the post sequestration level and will allow the Library to continue at current operations.

A slight increase above sequestration is recommended to ensure the Government Accountability Office can meet the ever increasing demands from Congress.

For many years, the Committee has been concerned with the placement of the Open World Leadership Center in the Legislative Branch. While I understand there are strong champions of this program, it is difficult to sustain it within the Legislative Branch in this environment. \$1.0 million is provided for the Center for costs associated with the programs termination.

Finally, I believe this bill prioritizes the most urgent needs of this subcommittee – safety, protection, and fiscal constraint. I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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