

Chairman Hal Rogers
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
Fiscal Year 2014 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill
July 9, 2013
Opening Statement As Prepared

Thank you, Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz for your hard work on the 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.

Our Capitol 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. I am proud that this building has been open for the American people to visit and meet directly with their elected representatives. 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, 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.

With that in mind, this bill provides \$3.23 billion for the operations of the Legislative Branch, excluding items for the Senate which are traditionally determined by that body. This represents a reduction of \$113 million below the 2013 pre-sequester level. 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.

This markup today demonstrates our continued commitment to getting the nation's fiscal house in order and sharing in the sacrifices that this will require. The Legislative Branch must set itself as an example. I commend Chairman Alexander for a job well-done and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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