



# **Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen**

## *House Committee on Appropriations*

**FY 2018 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill**  
**Full Committee Markup**  
**July 12, 2017**  
**Opening Statement As Prepared**

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National security is our number-one priority in this and all of our Appropriations bills. We face growing threats from across the globe – including North Korea and other countries that have not demonstrated a commitment to maintaining peace, and that continue to test the limits of the international community. It is critical that our security programs have the resources needed to keep our people safe.

This legislation funds essential programs that help us maintain a strong nuclear deterrence posture in the face of these rogue nations. This includes nearly \$14 billion for the Department of Energy’s nuclear weapons security programs – a \$976 billion increase above current levels. These investments will modernize and maintain the safety of our nuclear weapon stockpile and allow the United States to address any nuclear threat from anywhere around the world.

Another priority in this bill is advancing our economic competitiveness through targeted investments in water infrastructure and energy development programs.

This includes an increase for the Army Corps of Engineers, to support their important work that improves public safety, creates job, and bolsters our economy. This funding will help maintain our critical national and regional waterways – which handle commerce valued at more than \$2 trillion each year.

This legislation also directs funding to important energy and science research and development programs – which will advance our nation’s goal of finding an all-of-the-above solution to energy independence. Funding is prioritized to support American jobs, reduce and stabilize energy prices, and secure our energy future. By helping reduce our nation’s dependence on foreign oil and investing in American energy, this bill further bolsters our national security.

There is no doubt some difficult choices had to be made to fit within the cap for this bil. But this bill strikes a responsible balance: making cuts to programs that have received significant investments in recent years or that are lower-priority in this tough budgetary climate, while providing strong support for programs that will have the most benefit for the entire nation, now and into the future.

Again, my thanks go to Chairman Simpson and his Subcommittee for their thoughtful work on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it today.

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