

Chairman Hal Rogers
House Committee on Appropriations
Fiscal Year 2014 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and
Related Agencies Appropriations Bill
Subcommittee Markup
June 5, 2013
Opening Statement As Prepared

I thank the Chairman for yielding and I thank the members of the subcommittee for their work on this bill. Today, we have before us today the Chairman's mark of the fiscal year 2014 appropriations bill and report for Agriculture, Rural Development, the Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.

With this bill, we continue to follow our pattern of making targeted cuts in discretionary spending – in line with the historic \$95 billion we have already sliced since 2011. The discretionary 302(b) allocation for this bill is set at \$19.450 billion, and the bill is exactly at that level – a 6.2 percent cut from the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. This bill is also representative of the stark reality with which our committee is confronted: while we continue to cut discretionary spending in this committee, mandatory spending continues to rise. Some of you may have heard me say this before – mandatory spending, which constitutes 64% of our whole budget and 86% of this bill, cannot continue to grow unchecked. Despite our efforts to control discretionary spending in this bill by making difficult but thoughtful cuts totaling \$1.3 billion, the mandatory portion of this bill, which this committee has no power to control, increases by \$1.1 billion.

Every day of our lives, we rely on American farmers and ranchers to provide us with the food and products we need. This bill will fund critical agricultural programs to support our farmers and ranchers, promote the economic vitality of our rural communities, ensure the safety and sustainability of our food and drug supply, and offer some needed help to families who are facing hunger. We do all of this while keeping a tight hold on spending and trimming unnecessary funds to make the most of every tax dollar.

Chairman Aderholt has produced a bill today that balances fiscal restraint with the necessity to provide a safe and sustainable food supply, promotes American agriculture, implements meaningful conservation measures, safeguards legitimate drugs and medical devices, and ensures our neediest families have access to nutrition programs. Funding provided in this bill will support FDA's mission to prevent the illicit diversion and abuse of prescription painkillers, most notably by supplying the resources necessary for the agency to establish standards for abuse-deterrent drugs. Resources are also dedicated to ensuring that oft forgotten rural communities remain economically vibrant with basic infrastructure.

I would like to thank Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member Farr for their bipartisan work so far this year on an important bill to every American. This is a good bill, and it deserves the support of each subcommittee member.

I yield back.

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