

**Chairman Richard Shelby Opening Statement
Committee on Appropriations**

**Consideration of 302(b) Subcommittee allocations
Markup of the FY2019 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies
Appropriations Act
Markup of the FY2019 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies Appropriations Act**

May 24, 2018

(As prepared for delivery)

The Committee on Appropriations will come to order.

Today the Committee begins consideration of the fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills.

First, we will vote on the proposed 302(b) spending allocations for the subcommittees.

We will then move to consideration of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2019 and the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2019.

Following these votes, the Committee will consider amendments to each of the two appropriations measures in turn.

Before we begin, I'd like to welcome the newest Member of the Committee, Senator Hyde-Smith of Mississippi. Welcome, Senator.

Our first order of business is consideration of the 302(b) subcommittee allocations. Before each member is a table containing the proposed spending levels for each of the twelve subcommittees.

These allocations total \$1.244 trillion in total discretionary spending for FY19.

This total is consistent with the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, including the caps on defense and non-defense discretionary spending, OCO funding, and CHIMPs.

These allocations also anticipate funding consistent with the agreement covering opioids, infrastructure, NIH, veterans, child care and higher education. Last year Congress passed and the President reluctantly signed an omnibus spending bill.

I believe we all agree that is no way to fund the government.

It is bad for the agencies, it is bad for our constituents and it is bad for the country. |

If we are going to avoid another omnibus and instead pass individual spending bills and send them to the president's desk, we have to work in a bipartisan fashion.

The subcommittee allocations before you today are the product of bipartisan cooperation between myself and the vice chairman, in consultation with each of our subcommittee chairs and ranking members.

I want to thank Vice Chairman Leahy for his willingness to work with us in developing these allocations. I believe it is evident that we worked together and were able to produce a bipartisan product.

By beginning the FY19 process in this way, we have laid the predicate for strong bipartisan support for each of the appropriations bills that the committee will report in the coming weeks.

The committee has an aggressive schedule; marking up all twelve appropriations bills before the July 4th recess.

The subcommittees have accepted this challenge, holding over 40 hearings on the president's FY19 budget request thus far.

They are also moving forward to draft bills that conform to the spending levels proposed today.

I urge adoption of these allocations and thank everyone for their cooperation and input as we move this process forward.

Before we vote, I want to turn to my good friend and Vice Chairman, Senator Leahy, for his remarks on the proposed allocations.

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