

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

**Markup of the FY2019 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act
Markup of the FY2019 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill
Markup of the FY2019 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill**

June 14, 2018

(As prepared for delivery)

The Committee will come to order.

Today the Committee considers fiscal year 2019 appropriations measures approved by the Subcommittees on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies; and the Legislative Branch.

With the completion of today's mark up the Committee will have reported seven of the 12 fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills to the Senate.

We remain right on schedule.

More important than the pace of this process, however, is the bipartisanship that has defined it.

Thus far, the Committee has approved four fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills with strong bipartisan support.

Yet recent history and headlines suggest that we face a taller order today.

Issues related to the Second Amendment, immigration, and the environment carry partisan overtones and a potential to hamstring some of the subcommittee bills on today's agenda.

Despite these challenges, I believe that we will continue to build upon the bipartisan momentum we have created.

This is due in no small part to the leadership of our subcommittee chairs and ranking members.

They have navigated this process by working together and refraining from including new authorizing provisions and poison pill riders on these appropriations bills.

While debate over new authorizations is important, the most appropriate place for that debate is the relevant authorizing committee – not the appropriations committee.

I also appreciate that my colleagues have refrained from including many of the provisions that have traditionally hampered the Committee's efforts to advance bipartisan bills.

I believe these are good bills that strike a proper balance among many critical and competing considerations.

Chairs Murkowski, Moran, and Daines along with Ranking Members Udall, Shaheen, and Murphy — thank you for your discipline and diligence.

I say to all members, your restraint and focus are reinvigorating the appropriations process.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

I now turn to Vice Chairman Leahy to make an opening statement and a motion.

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