The recommendations in this bill provide overall funding of $3.67 billion, excluding Senate items. This is a decrease of $6.8 million from the level provided in fiscal year 2010 and a decrease of $337 million below the request. The jurisdiction of this bill is vitally important, as this is where the Appropriations Committee fulfills its responsibility as the stewards of the institutions which are at the heart of our democracy. This bill also reflects an acknowledgment that the Legislative Branch must set itself as an example for fiscal constraint while continuing to serve the Nation.

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