

**Chairman Hal Rogers**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Fiscal Year 2014 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill**  
**Full Committee Markup**  
**July 17, 2013**  
**Opening Statement as Prepared**

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Now, we will move on to our second item of business, the markup of the Fiscal Year 2014 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill.

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This bill is a fine example of how we can invest in important programs, while eliminating wasteful spending, and helping to put an end to government excess and impropriety with our Appropriations bills.

This bill truly right-sizes federal spending for its programs – finding the balance between functional necessity and fiscal restraint that will allow the government to operate on a more limited scope.

Although the Subcommittee faced a challenging budget allocation, this bill is proof that we can still do great work and improve the way our government spends its tax dollars. The \$4.3 billion in reductions in this bill were made carefully and pain-stakingly – but the end product is a strong and responsible bill.

To highlight some of the cuts: The IRS, which is the largest agency within this legislation, receives a 24% cut from last year. Clearly, the bureaucracy is broken; this past year, we've seen absurd spending on lavish employee conferences, questionable bonuses, the mismanagement of personal information, and the loss of billions of dollars in improper payments. But as IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel said, the answer to these problems isn't more money; it's the careful targeting of funding to ensure that the IRS is doing its job and doing its job well.

And we've included several provisions to ensure that gaffes and scandals like this don't happen in the future. The Treasury Inspector General – who has uncovered many of these missteps – receives a \$5 million increase above the President's request to enhance its oversight operations.

We also continue our strong oversight of the General Services Administration, requiring additional reporting and placing conditions on some of their funding. We've made changes to *how* their money is spent, so the agency is more accountable and less wasteful.

In addition, this bill also terminates 10 redundant and non-essential programs, saving the taxpayers millions of dollars. We also eliminated the SEC's slush fund that gave it unrestrained access to millions of dollars for unauthorized regulatory purposes. And we've brought the White House's budget more in line with the cuts that Congress has already imposed on itself.

In a move that will save American families and businesses a great deal of trouble and money, we have provided no funding for the IRS to implement the ObamaCare individual mandate, nor will we allow the agency to receive a transfer from the Department of Health and Human Services for such purposes. Chairman Crenshaw said it right when he said it's "troubling" that the IRS should be given greater responsibility – and more money with it – when the agency clearly can't handle what it already has.

These are just small portions of the many oversight requirements and funding restrictions we've put in this bill to ensure that not a penny goes to waste or to any ineffective, unethical, or improper activities.

By saving money wherever possible, this bill better targets tax dollars to programs that directly serve the American people.

The \$17 billion in funding within the bill is focused on programs that encourage economic growth and enforce our laws.

For example, to help encourage and advance the chief drivers of the American economy – small businesses across the nation – we've provided \$898 million for the Small Business Administration. To help these businesses start and grow, we've ensured that SBA loans are fully funded, and that, in case of unexpected natural disasters, recovery loans have full funding and are ready to help get businesses back on their feet.

To ensure that our financial system abides by the laws needed to protect our citizens' and businesses' hard-earned money at every level, the SEC will essentially continue to operate at the same level as last year, and the Treasury's financial intelligence operations receive sufficient levels of funding as well.

And to make sure that our laws are preserved and communities protected by a strong federal court system, the Judiciary receives \$12 million more than last year's enacted level to support timely federal court activities and the careful supervision of offenders and defendants living in our communities, as well as maintaining court security.

I want to thank Chairman Crenshaw and Ranking Member Serrano for their leadership on this bill. It is clear you both, and the entire Subcommittee, put in a great deal of time to make sure this bill was the best it could be. We also must thank the staff for their hard work.

This bill provides the accountability and transparency that Americans demand – and deserve – from their government.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill today.

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