

## **ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF HON. DAVID OBEY**

Once again, the President requested severe cuts in programs of vital interest to the Nation. Once again, the subcommittee's allocation, reflecting the budget agreed to by the Republican-controlled Congress, did not permit the full restoration of the cuts. Each year we applaud the Chairman for restoring a significant portion of the cuts but we ignore the long-term impact. This pattern has slowly eroded efforts to assist state and local communities over the years.

At the same time that States and local communities are taking on greater law enforcement and community building responsibilities, the Administration and the Congress are slowly withdrawing funds needed to meet these increasing demands. Since September 11, for example, local police have undertaken increased homeland security duties. Additionally, the sluggish national economy is forcing local communities to work harder to attract new businesses, maintain existing ones, and create new jobs. Yet, the Committee's bill will ask our State and local law enforcement agencies and community development organizations to do more in these areas with fewer resources. It cannot be done.

The President budget proposed slashing State and local law enforcement assistance grants by \$1.4 billion, a 46.2 percent cut from last year's level, and eliminating Economic Development Assistance program grants to distressed communities. While the Committee managed to repair some of the damage, this bill does not even get back to last year's levels.

State and Local Law Enforcement: The Committee bill restored \$1 billion for State and local law enforcement assistance. However, law enforcement grants are still cut by \$400 million from last year, and last year's level was \$226 million below the year before. Looking back to FY 2001, state and local law enforcement agencies will have to do more in FY 2006 with \$1 billion less.

Why is it important to restore funding to assist state and local law enforcement? Of the 44 largest metropolitan police departments, 27 have been forced to reduce the number of police on the streets. Cleveland, New York, Minneapolis, New Orleans, and many other communities, have reduced the number of police since September 11th. Shortages of officers and increased homeland security duties have led police chiefs to abandon laborintensive but effective preventive policing practices. Not surprisingly,

these police chiefs are reporting increased gang activity and other troubling indicators of violent crime.

According to the Department of Justice, every \$1 we invest in COPS grants contributes to a decline of 10 violent crimes and 27 property crimes per 100,000 residents. Moreover, numerous studies and surveys in the past three years have identified unmet critical law enforcement needs for hiring, training and technical assistance, as well as protective equipment and interoperable communications. In fact, the Independent Task Force on Emergency Responders, chaired by former Senator Warren Rudman, stated in its 2003 report that merely continuing funding levels would mean 'America will fall \$98 billion short of meeting critical emergency responder needs over the next five years.' Since that report, and despite the best efforts of the Subcommittee Chairman, funding for state and local law enforcement assistance has been cut by \$1 billion.

Economic Development Administration grants: The Committee also restored \$200 million for Economic Development Assistance program grants above the President's request, but this is still \$53 million below last year's level. This is a 20 percent cut in one year and going back to FY 2001, EDA grants have been cut by about 50 percent.

Why is it important to restore EDA grants? EDA grants spark public and private investments that help create and expand business, and bring new jobs to struggling communities. In 2004, EDA investments helped create almost 126,000 new jobs, retain more than 34,000 jobs and leverage \$10.4 billion in private sector investments in our nation's distressed communities. For every \$1 million in EDA investments, another \$10 million is typically leveraged in private sector funds. EDA is also essential to small cities and rural areas. Nearly 85 percent of the nation's units of local government serve populations below 5,000 and almost 30 percent have no professional staff. As a result, smaller communities rely heavily on EDA-funded staff for professional and technical support.

The root of this bill's problems is this year's irresponsible and woefully inadequate budget resolution and the resolution did not happen by accident. Ironically, some of the same Members of Congress who voted for this budget resolution are now asking that we, as appropriators, help to increase funding for specific programs or activities. Either these Members possess a complete lack of understanding of the budget process or they are hypocritically asking this Committee to repair the damage that they themselves caused. It is absurd that Members register surprise that certain programs are reduced even when the budget resolution mandated those cuts.

The overall lack of funds to address national needs is the direct result of a Republican Budget Resolution for 2006 that provides \$11.7 billion less than the amount necessary just to maintain current service levels for domestic programs. As Majority Leader Tom Delay pointed out last month during

debate on the Conference Report on the Budget Resolution, 'This is the budget that the American people voted for when they returned a Republican House, a Republican Senate and a Republican White House last November.'

This may not be the budget the American people voted for, but it is the budget the American people will receive under the current leadership in the White House and in the Congress.

*DAVID OBEY.*

## **ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN**

The appropriations bill for the Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies reported by the Committee reflects a sincere effort by a capable subcommittee Chairman to put together a good bill in the face of some large reductions and legislative proposals in the President's request. The Subcommittee Chairman consulted with the minority throughout this process and the bill reflects our views and recommendations in many areas.

While this is a good bill and the Chairman engaged in a fair and open process, I am concerned about the effects of reduced resources over the past several years on our states and our local communities. The Chairman has restored about a billion dollars over the President's cuts to state and local law enforcement, but the bill is still about \$400 million below last year's level. The Chairman has also restored \$200 million to the Economic Development Administration's grant program, which was eliminated in the President's 2006 proposal. However, that number is a little more than two-thirds the level that it was last year.

Several smaller programs that are of importance to Members and their communities were not funded including the Public Telecommunications Facilities and Planning account and the Advanced Technology Partnership program.

There are many positive aspects to this bill. The FBI received \$50 million above the--President's request, including funding for drug agents that the President proposed to transfer into Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. The Drug Enforcement Administration and the Marshals Service are both funded above the President's request and the bill rejects the President's proposals to impose a new tax on the explosives industry by the imposition of various fees, and to transfer responsibility and reduce funding for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program.

I am pleased that this bill rejects the Administration's 'Strengthening America's Communities' initiative proposed to be established in the Department of Commerce. The Chairman has restored the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program to \$106 million, almost \$60 million above the

President's request. An increase of \$200 million above last year's House bill was provided for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, but NOAA is still \$150 million below the President's 2006 request.

The bill retains \$15 million in the Steel Loan Guarantee program, despite the President's request to rescind all funding. This program has been an important aid to the domestic steel industry and I will continue to argue for even more funding in conference.

I am concerned that NASA is moving forward with fundamental changes to the mission, capital, and organization without the benefit of an authorization and a robust hearing process that such an authorization would entail. I am concerned about the general lack of information provided by NASA and presented in the fiscal year 2006 justification. Some of the yet to be answered questions include: the number of shuttle flights remaining, the final configurations of the International Space Station, the type of research to be conducted on the space station, what type of propulsion technologies and what types of activities will take place when we return to the Moon. Other ill-defined activities surround the Moon-Mars proposal, including the specifics of the Crew Exploration Vehicle.

One priority in the science field that has been threatened during implementation of the Moon-Mars proposal is the Hubble Servicing Mission. Like many others in Congress, in the public, and in the science community, I am encouraged that Administrator Griffin intends to reassess a Hubble servicing mission. Hubble has been one of the world's premier scientific instruments for more than a decade, and a servicing mission can dramatically enhance and extend this valuable asset.

While I am glad to see that the Chairman restored some of the monies for the science and aeronautics programs at NASA, I am concerned that crucial science and aeronautics programs are being reduced, deferred, and ultimately will wither. The science account, including programs such as solar system exploration, universe exploration, and the earth-sun system would receive less than a one percent increase under this budget proposal yet most of the recent successes have come from these programs.

The Chairman did restore many of the cuts proposed by the President in the 2006 budget for the National Science Foundation, yet we are far behind the numbers advocated by the science community and the so-called 'doubling bill' passed by the authorizing committee several years ago.

For the State Department, I am pleased that the bill provides \$410 million for educational and cultural exchanges, an increase of \$54.5 million, and increases funding for public diplomacy programs to \$340 million. Worldwide security activities for the State Department and embassy security upgrades are fully funded. The bill fully funds international peacekeeping efforts but

requires that appropriate procedures are in place to sanction misconduct before any new peacekeeping operations are undertaken.

Within the Small Business Administration, I was pleased to see that the Chairman chose to restore funding for the microloan program which had been zeroed out in the President's budget, although the bill's proposed funding level of \$10 million only partially restores this program.

I support the bill and applaud the subcommittee Chairman whose strong values and vision are so well reflected in this measure.

*ALAN B. MOLLOHAN.*