

Additional views of Norm Dicks and Peter Visclosky

We commend Chairman Rogers and Chairman Frelinghuysen for their efforts to assemble this bill in an inclusive manner. The bill funds critical water resource projects, supports science activities necessary for American competitiveness, and contributes to our national defense through vital weapons, naval reactor research, and nonproliferation funding, all priorities that unite rather than divide us. Chairman Frelinghuysen has worked hard to incorporate the interests of Members from both parties.

However, we are extremely disappointed that House Republicans walked away from the bipartisan agreement to establish \$1.047 trillion as the Committee's allocation. A majority of their conference voted for the Budget Control Act agreement less than nine months ago. By renegeing on the agreement, House Republicans put themselves at odds with House Democrats, the White House, Senate Democrats, and Senate Republicans. Senate Minority Leader McConnell recently voted for allocations at \$1.047 trillion and Ranking Member Cochran stated that it is appropriate "for the Committee to proceed on the basis of the discretionary caps enacted into law." House Republicans have introduced uncertainty about the discretionary allocation, and about whether the House majority will threaten to shut down the government. This uncertainty will slow down the appropriations process and the austere House allocation, if it stands, could stall economic growth and impede job creation.

The subcommittee's allocation is \$32,097,500,000, a decrease of \$964,955,000 from the Administration's budget request and \$87,500,000 above the 2012 level. While the allocation is above 2012, this is solely due to an increase of \$275,000,000 in security funding. Consequently, the Committee made severe cuts to crucial energy programs to stay within the allocation. While we truly appreciate the Chairman's considerable efforts and recognize that difficult choices must be made to address the nation's serious financial situation, this bill starkly illustrates the shortsighted nature of the spending cap set by the House budget. The allocation for Energy and Water is simply insufficient to meet the challenges posed by the energy crisis, the need to maintain our water infrastructure and our national security requirements.

We commend the Chairman for increasing Corps of Engineers funding by \$83 million above the President's woefully inadequate request, ensuring that some ongoing projects will not be terminated. However, the bill provides \$188 million less than 2012. We must invest in our infrastructure by making preventative and proactive investments. It makes more fiscal sense to prevent a disaster than to respond. Additionally, businesses and individuals are much more likely to invest in a community if there is confidence in its infrastructure. Further, the nation's ports and waterways are critical to ensuring that American made goods can move to market, both domestically and abroad. We firmly believe that our underinvestment in infrastructure continues to hamper our economic recovery and has prolonged our current employment crisis.

The bill continues the subcommittee's efforts over the years to improve program and project management at all of the agencies under its jurisdiction. For example, the bill does not include the requested authorizing language to raise the total allowable cost of the Olmsted Lock and Dam project to \$2.9 billion. This is a project that began in 1988 as a \$775 million replacement for two aging facilities on the Ohio River. Instead the bill includes a provision that limits the expenditure of funds on the project until the Corps has completed a review of the construction methodology and developed a plan for the completion of the project. Further, the report requires an independent review of the Corps work to ensure that the plan forward is the most effective alternative.

This is just one illustration of the subcommittee's continued efforts to improve program and project management at all of the agencies under its jurisdiction. We strongly support the Chairman on this and all the other provisions, old and new, aimed at increased oversight and improved project management at the Corps and DOE. However, we are disappointed that the subcommittee must repeat so many of these provisions from year to year. It would behoove the agencies to incorporate these policies into their management structure.

The Science account, critical to the competitiveness of our nation, is reduced by 1.5 percent from 2012. While, the bill also provides funds for the continuation of ARPA-E, it is at a level \$75 million below the prior year. Both of these agencies drive innovations to support our scientific competitiveness that we believe will eventually provide much of the inspiration to overcome the energy crisis and address climate change. We are disappointed with the level of funding provided in the bill, \$190 million and \$150 million below the request, respectively.

With regard to the applied energy programs at the Department of Energy, the bill includes appropriate funding for fossil and nuclear energy, but we are disappointed that renewable energy programs in this bill are drastically reduced, \$428 million from 2012 and \$886 million from the President's request. In providing for critical research and development for those sectors that currently provide the bulk of our electricity generation, we cannot sacrifice the future. Renewable energy can achieve cost competitiveness but a continued and sustained research and development program is necessary and appropriate. The United States can leverage its strength -- innovation -- to restore the United States to a position of global leadership in clean energy. This effort is a critical national priority, with implications for our economic competitiveness, national security, and environmental legacy.

While we are concerned with the level of funding, we do appreciate the Chairman's commitment to American manufacturing. Only 12 percent of the nation's private sector workforce is currently employed in manufacturing, yet it remains one of the most important drivers in our economy. We see very little merit to using federal dollars to foster technological advances or breakthroughs for products that are not ultimately manufactured domestically. We must do more to reverse the trend of domestic firms shifting production overseas, because -- to put it simply -- domestic manufacturing drives domestic

innovation. If you stop manufacturing a product in the U.S. it is often only a matter of time before the engineering and research and development responsible for the product move overseas. This shift then makes it virtually impossible for our nation to compete for and create the next generation of products. In turn, the loss of these employment opportunities discourages students from pursuing education in scientific and engineering fields.

Fortunately, trends are improving as many companies are beginning to invest domestically and move jobs back to the U.S. The conversation has turned from unit costs to the "total cost of production." In these terms, the U.S. begins to look more attractive for investment. Rising wages in developing countries and gains in U.S. productivity relative to other countries -- coupled with concerns pertaining to supply chains and uncertainty regarding inputs such as energy -- make our country more competitive. Both this bill and the Administration's budget place a significant emphasis on domestic manufacturing, a development we enthusiastically support.

Nonproliferation activities receive an eight percent reduction from 2012; however, we commend the Chairman for preserving the core nonproliferation activities. With constrained funding, the Chairman provides additional funding for the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, proliferation detection and nuclear detonation detection.

The bill includes funding for a national security-related domestic uranium enrichment technology development, otherwise known as the United States Enrichment Corporation. While we appreciate the Chairman's decision to move forward cautiously, we question the need for this program and object to its characterization as a Nonproliferation activity. The Department of Energy itself has repeatedly characterized this program as supporting the nuclear weapons program and has provided insufficient evidence that this additional expenditure is necessary in any case. Despite our reservations regarding this program, we applaud the Chairman's decision to include statutory report language requiring a low enriched uranium and tritium management plan. However, we find it astonishing that the language is necessary when simple logic would dictate that the Department of Energy would have such a plan given the importance of tritium to our national security.

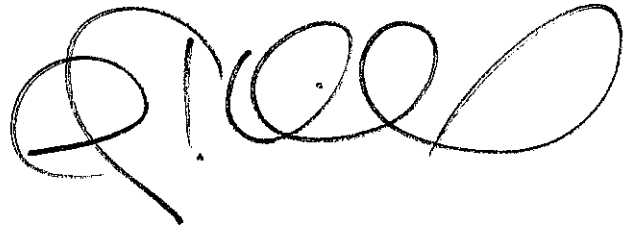
We are concerned that the funding the bill includes for Environmental Management (EM) activities is insufficient to meet the federal government's legal obligations to clean up its defense nuclear waste. This program is critical to addressing the environmental legacies of the Cold War and the Manhattan Project. Given that EM's portfolio is one of the nation's largest environmental and financial liabilities, we have the responsibility to address the waste and contamination in the affected communities in a timely and competent manner.

Lastly, we commend Chairman Frelinghuysen for the decision to provide funding for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste disposal project and for including the provision to prohibit the use of funding to

abandon the project. We agree that the Administration's actions to close down the project run counter to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act Congress of 1982.

As this bill moves forward, we hope to work with the majority to address these concerns.

Norm Sieber

A handwritten signature consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end, resembling a stylized 'R' or 'D' followed by a flourish.