

**Chairman Tom Latham**  
**Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Fiscal Year 2014 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill**  
**Full Committee Mark Up**  
**June 27, 2013**  
**Opening Statement As Prepared**

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to offer the THUD bill for Full Committee consideration today. I hope we can be brief. I'd like to thank Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey for their leadership in getting this bill to Full Committee, and, we hope, to the floor after the July 4<sup>th</sup> recess. I extend a special thank you to Ranking Member Pastor for his willingness to talk with us, and for his spirit of camaraderie.

The bill before the committee today was written under an allocation of \$44.1 billion, compared to the fiscal year 2013 level of \$51.8 billion, before you factor in sequester. Cutting over \$7 billion in programs was challenging. We had to make some tough choices, but we were able to meet three main priorities: MAP-21 programs, air traffic controllers, and housing renewals.

The bill we are considering today shows that we can work together in committee to make significant cuts to Federal spending, while supporting core transportation and housing programs that are essential to creating jobs and spurring economic growth. We did our best to identify duplication, waste, fraud and abuse.

The bill provides funding for the FAA to keep air traffic controllers on the job and not disrupt air traffic control. Other aviation safety programs are also a priority and the funding levels support NextGen programs currently under deployment. We were able to preserve Highway, Safety, and Transit programs at the MAP-21 authorized levels. This bill also funds all existing Full Funding Agreements in FTA, and all proposed new starts.

The bill funds all Section 8 vouchers expected to be in use at the beginning of fiscal year 2014, as well as the renewals for homeless, elderly, and disabled programs. Veterans' vouchers are fully funded at \$75 million, to serve an additional 10,000 homeless vets. The bill does not include a number of authorizing provisions that were in the budget request. In this sense, we urge the Financial Services Committee to consider the proposed reforms and put forth a Section 8 reform bill. These reforms are especially needed now that we are significantly reducing spending. Our limited dollars should target needy populations — not bureaucrats and regulators.

As we move this bill through the Committee I would ask that Members refrain from offering amendments that are authorizing in nature, and leave those items for Financial Services and T&I to consider. Let's let those committees have some fun, too.

I hope you would agree that we approached the bill with a spirit of fairness and balance, given the priorities in the bill and the allocation we received.

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Lowey, thank you both for moving this bill through the process, and I yield back my time.

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