


FISCAL YEAR 2013 ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL
HEARING BEFORE THE RULES COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF PETER J. VISCLOSKY

Chairman ~~Drier~~ Ranking Member Slaughter, and Members of the Rules Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today.

I believe Chairman Frelinghuysen has worked hard to incorporate the interests of Members from both parties and I join him in asking that the Committee provide an open rule.

As the Chairman mentioned, the Subcommittee's allocation is \$32.1 billion, nearly one billion below the budget request and \$88 million above 2012. While the allocation is above 2012, this is solely due to an increase of \$275 million in security funding. Consequently, the Committee made severe cuts to crucial energy programs to stay within the allocation. While I truly appreciate the Chairman's considerable efforts and recognize difficult choices must be made to address the nation's serious financial situation, the allocation for Energy and Water remains insufficient to meet the challenges posed by the economic downturn and to diversify our energy mix.

Within the constraints of this allocation the bill rightly provides funding for the following priorities:

- **A commitment to American manufacturing:** The bill focuses on ensuring technological advances and breakthroughs for products translate into improved competitiveness for domestic manufacturing.

- **Investing in American competitiveness:** The bill continues to fund ARPA-E and funds the Science account at just one percent below 2012. These programs drive innovation to support our scientific competitiveness.
- **Confronting the terrorist nuclear threat:** With constrained funding, the bill provides additional funding for the Global Threat Reduction Initiative.

However, I'd like to highlight several areas that I believe do not adequately address the needs of our country.

- **Environmental cleanup of the nation's nuclear complex:** The funding the bill includes is insufficient to meet the federal government's legal obligations to clean up its defense nuclear waste.
- **Renewable energy research and development:** Renewable energy can achieve cost competitiveness but a continued and sustained research and development program is necessary and appropriate.
- **Investing in dam safety, flood protection, hydropower modernization, and infrastructure:** Even with the additional resources the Chairman has brought to bear, the bill does not come close to addressing the backlog that plagues waterborne infrastructure in the United States.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.