



# Alternative Fuels & Chemicals Coalition

*Advocating for Public Policies to Promote the Development & Production of Alternative Fuels & Chemicals, with a Focus on Sustainable Aviation Fuels*

## **AFCC's May 2019 Capitol Hill Round Up: House Appropriation Subcommittees Release Their FY2020 Marks**

### **House Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Legislative Activities**

On Thursday, May 23, 2019, the House Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration Appropriations Subcommittee passed its fiscal year (FY) 2020 spending bill that can be found [here](#), on a voice vote. The bill includes \$24.3 billion in discretionary spending for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the fiscal year beginning October 1.

The bill has provisions preventing the planned relocation of the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Secretary Perdue previously stated that relocating the agencies, while leaving some employees in Washington, would put the offices closer to rural populations USDA serves, but critics think otherwise, and worry that research areas such as climate change will be diminished by the distance from the nation's capital. Locations for the offices include Kansas City, the North Carolina Research Triangle and multiple sites in Indiana, including Purdue University.

The bill would increase agriculture programs by \$1 billion compared with the enacted level for this year and is \$5.1 billion more than the administration's budget request. Farm programs would receive \$1.8 billion, or \$32 million more than this year, including a \$30 million increase for farm bill implementation. Conservation programs would receive \$996.6 million, including \$829 million for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Rural Development programs, which includes salaries and expenses for operating USDA's energy programs, would receive \$669 million.

### **House Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Legislative Activities**

The House Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittee released its \$73.89 billion FY2020 spending bill, on Thursday, May 16, 2019, that can be found [here](#). The bill would provide a \$9.78 billion increase over current funding.

The legislation would increase spending for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The bill will likely see floor action in June.

The bill includes \$5.48 billion for NOAA in FY2020, which is \$54 million above the enacted fiscal FY2019 level, which rejects the deep cuts proposed by President Trump's budget, which, if approved, would have caused a work force reduction of 547 civilian positions and eliminated several grant programs.

A Collaborative Government Affairs Effort

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The bill's spending plan would ensure that NOAA can continue to work on key priorities such as climate research, improvements in weather forecasting, and enhancement in fisheries management. The bill contains \$15 million for the recent fishery disasters and \$65 million for the Pacific coastal salmon recovery program. Six states – Alaska, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington – and federally recognized tribes near Columbia River and Pacific coast would be eligible for grants to preserve salmon and steelhead populations. NASA would see its budget increase to \$22.32 billion, approximately \$815 million over current spending. Space agency science programs, which include work related to climate change, would rise by \$225.6 million to \$7.16 billion.

The National Science Foundation budget would see a rise of \$516 million to \$8.64 billion. The increase would allow for modernization of research facilities in Antarctica as well as upgrades to research vessels and telescopes.

The bill provides a solid down payment toward the nation's infrastructure improvement needs by investing \$540 million in the Department of Commerce (DOC) Economic Development Administration (EDA), an increase of \$236 million above FY 2019, including strong increases for EDA's Public Works program and other EDA programs. These funds provide the foundation for future growth in jobs and enhanced economic development opportunities in local communities.

## **House Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Legislative Activities**

Clean energy programs within the Department of Energy would see major increases under the FY2020 Energy-Water Development spending bill unveiled by House Democratic appropriators Tuesday, May 14, 2019, that can be found [here](#).

The \$46.4 billion bill represents a roughly 4 percent increase over the \$44.6 billion measure signed into law last fall. It would provide \$37.1 billion to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), which is \$1.4 billion more than current levels and \$5.6 billion more than the requested level.

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) would receive \$2.65 billion, or \$273 million more than current levels, according to the summary. This would provide the office with \$2.3 billion more than the Administration's request.

The Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARAP-E), which the Trump administration wants to eliminate, would receive \$425 million, an increase of \$59 million above current levels.

The Title 17, Innovation Technology Loan Guarantee program would receive \$33 million; The Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) Loan Program will receive \$5 million; and the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program will receive \$1 million, consistent with prior year funding levels.

The Office of Science would receive \$6.8 billion, an increase of \$285 million above the current year and \$1.3 billion more than the Administration request.



This year's appropriation reflects bipartisan support for basic research at DOE, an area that was funded at a record-setting \$6.6 billion in FY2019.

Fossil energy programs – which includes advance fossil energy initiatives to encourage the development of improved technologies and methods to reduce the environmental impacts of fossil fuel use – would receive \$740 million in FY2020 under the bill, which Democrats say is equal to current levels and \$178 million above the Administration's request.

For nuclear programs, the bill would provide \$1.3 billion, which is roughly equal to current levels but represents an increase of \$494 million over President Trump's request. The bill does not appear to appropriate any money for the nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, as recent Republican bills have. It does contain funds for interim storage activities.

Cybersecurity programs would receive \$150 million, which is a \$30 million increase over FY2019, and the Office of Electricity would receive \$200 million, approximately \$44 million over the current year funding level.

### **House Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Legislative Activities**

House appropriators on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, approved by a vote of 30-21 legislation that can be found [here](#), that would provide \$37.3 billion in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Interior (DOI) and related agencies in fiscal 2020.

This total includes \$13.8 billion for Interior, with more money for conservation, public lands and wildlife management than current levels. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) programs will receive \$1.7 billion. The Office of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation will receive \$121 million.

The EPA would receive about \$9.5 billion, nearly \$700 million more than its current funding. The EPA Underground Storage Tank will receive \$94 million. A total of \$1.1 billion will be for grants, including associated program support costs. The grants will be available to States, federally recognized tribes, interstate agencies, tribal consortia, and air pollution control agencies for multi-media or single media pollution prevention control and abatement and related activities.

The legislation is a clear repudiation of the Trump administration's energy dominance agenda, as well as to the White House's proposed cuts.

"This bill rejects cuts proposed by the Trump administration, including those that would have harmed the ability of the EPA to keep our communities safe and healthy, defunded the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and decimated scientific research to combat climate change," said Minnesota Democratic Rep. Betty McCollum, chairwoman of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee.



## **House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Legislative Activities**

The House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee approved its \$86.6 billion spending bill that can be found [here](#), on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, amid GOP unease over a rider about car rules.

The bill would drastically loosen standards on greenhouse gas emissions and fuel economy for cars and light trucks. The administration plans on issuing the final rule in June.

The bill passed by voice votes, as is common at the subcommittee level, but amendments are likely during a markup in the coming weeks.

The bill would provide \$86.6 billion in total budgetary resources for the Department of Transportation (DOT), which is \$167 million above this year's enacted level and \$3.7 billion above President Trump's budget request. The Office of the Secretary will receive \$114 million, and the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology will receive \$42 million.

Payments to air carriers of \$175 million from Airport and Airway Trust Funds will be made available for air service programs. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will be receiving \$10.7 billion which will include operations and research activities related to commercial space transportation, administrative expenses, establishment of air navigation facilities and maintenance of aircraft.

Research, engineering, and development will receive \$191 million derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. An additional \$3 billion will be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund for airport safety programs. "Grant-In-Aid for Airports" will be given \$500 million for grant programs.

Of the total amount, a \$1 billion slice would go toward Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grants, formerly know as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grants. The Trump administration had proposed eliminating the BUILD program in its fiscal 2018 and 2019 budget requests, only to do an about-face and call for funding the program at \$1 billion in its FY2020 request.

Among the departments within DOT, the spending bill would provide the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) with \$48.9 billion, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with \$3 billion and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with \$1 billion. The FAA would get \$17.7 billion, with \$1.6 billion going toward aviation safety due to the recent fatal crashes of two Boeing 737 Max planes.