

There was no objection.

**MAKING IN ORDER AMENDED
VERSION OF H.R. 2419, ENERGY
AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006**

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during consideration of H.R. 2419, pursuant to House Resolution 291, the amendment that I have placed at the desk be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole and considered as the original text for purpose of further amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to H.R. 2419 offered by Mr. HOBSON:

Add at the end the following:

This Act may be cited as the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2006".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

**ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOP-
MENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2006**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 291 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2419.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2419) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, with Mr. GOODLATTE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to submit to the House for its consideration H.R. 2419, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2006.

The Committee on Appropriations approved this bill unanimously on May 18, and I believe it is a good bill that merits the support of the entire House.

Mr. Chairman, this bill provides annual funding for a wide range of Federal programs including such diverse matters as flood control, navigation improvements, environmental restora-

tion, nuclear waste disposal, advanced scientific research, applied energy research, maintenance of our nuclear stockpile, and nuclear non-proliferation.

Total funding for energy and water development in fiscal year 2006 is \$29,746,000,000. This funding amount represent a decrease of \$728,000 below the budget request and \$86.3 million below the current fiscal year. This bill is right at our subcommittee's 302(b) allocation and provides adequate funds to meet the priority needs of the House.

Title I of the bill provides for the Civil Works Program of the Army Corps of Engineers; the Formally Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, which is executed by the corps; and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. The Committee recommends a total of \$4.746 billion for title I activities, \$294 million below the current year and \$414 million above the current budget request.

I want to explain a couple of things about the corps as we go through this and take a little time on this because some of this is a change.

For a number of years, the corps Civil Works Program has been oversubscribed where Congress kept giving the corps more and more projects to do but not enough money to do them. We took steps last year to put the corps on the road to fiscal recovery by eliminating the number of new starts and concentrating resources on the completion of ongoing construction projects. We also asked OMB to adopt a new approach to future corps budget requests so that we can use our limited resources to complete the most valuable projects efficiently, instead of spreading those resources very widely to make incremental progress across a large number of projects.

The fiscal year 2006 budget request adopts such a performance-based approach for the corps budget. Proposing to use the ratio of remaining costs to remaining benefits is the primary determinant of which construction projects should receive priority consideration for funding. While this ratio may not be a perfect measure of merit of all the projects, the budget request represents good faith from the OMB to concentrate the corps' limited resources on finishing the most worthwhile projects that are already under construction.

Until we begin to clear out the enormous backlog of ongoing work, we are reluctant to start new projects; therefore, we did not include any new starts again this year in this bill.

One consequence of adopting this new performance-based approach to the corps is that the funds available for member adds for corps projects are very limited this year. In part, this is because for the first time in years we received a budget request in which many congressional priorities are already at the funded level. I think this is an improvement. However, even with

that request as a good starting point, the total amount that we can provide for the corps is less than what the House passed in fiscal year 2005.

With a healthy base request and a lean 302(b) allocation, we did not add as much for Member projects as we have in previous years. We were harsh, but fair, in how we dealt with these Member projects.

Our fiscal year 2006 Energy and Water bill makes major strides to improving the corps' project execution reprogrammings and continuing contracts. For a workload of approximately 2,000 projects, the Chief of Engineers recently told me that the corps had 2,000 projects, but they had 20,000 reprogrammings. We think this is not good management, and we have done a lot in our bill to try to focus the corps on these continuing contracts.

The problem is that the corps has done a lot of reprogrammings. They have moved funds around. We believe this is a case management problem. We have taken extensive efforts to try to reform this program because we think that they may not have the money to restore what they should, and if there is a big plume in all of this, that they cannot really tell us what it is all about.

Another area that we have a problem with is in the continuing-contract area. Some people would like to get rid of continuing contracts. I do not happen to believe that. I think it is a tool that they need, but we need to make sure that they are not using them to excess and they are not using them to do things that either the administration did not want to fund, we did not want to fund, or the Senate did not want to fund; and that this money is not being shifted around or execution is being done that would inhibit our ability in future years to fund programs by the original funding by the corps.

The Department of Energy received a total of \$24.318 billion in the Energy and Water bill. That is an increase of \$105 million over the budget request, about \$101 million less than the fiscal year 2005 level. As with the corps, we asked the Department of Energy to begin preparing 5-year budget plans, first for individual programs and then an integrated plan for the Department. I think this is just good money management within these Departments. We need 5-year plans. We actually need longer visions in these programs so that we know what we are going to end up with in the waterways in the future and we know what the Department of Energy's plans are in the future.

The committee has several important new initiatives for the Department of Energy. DOE presently has significant quantities of weapons-usable special nuclear materials, plutonium and highly enriched uranium, scattered around its complexes. Unfortunately, even with the heightened attention to homeland security after the 9/11 attacks, the Department has done little to consolidate these high-risk materials. We