

[COMMITTEE PRINT]

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DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND JUSTICE, AND SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016

JUNE —, 2015.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2578]

The Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 2578) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, reports the same to the Senate with an amendment, and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

Total obligational authority, fiscal year 2016

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include: Total of bill as reported to the Senate, Amount of 2015 appropriations, Amount of 2016 budget estimate, Amount of House allowance, and Bill as recommended to Senate compared to— (2015 appropriations, 2016 budget estimate, House allowance).

1 This level does not include -\$10,880,000,000 in adjustments that the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] scores to the bill. With these scorekeeping adjustments, the bill totals \$51,068,000,000 in discretionary budget authority.

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PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The bill provides funding for: (1) the Department of Commerce [DOC]; (2) the Department of Justice [DOJ]; (3) several independent science agencies: the Office of Science and Technology Policy [OSTP], the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA], and the National Science Foundation [NSF]; and (4) several related commissions and agencies: the Commission on Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission [EEOC], the International Trade Commission [ITC], the Legal Services Corporation [LSC], the Marine Mammal Commission, and the State Justice Institute [SJI].

SUMMARY OF THE BILL

The total amount of discretionary budget authority recommended by the Committee for fiscal year 2016 is \$51,068,000,000, which is \$965,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, and \$984,653,000 below the budget request. When adjusting for spending with comparable scorekeeping adjustments, the funding provided in this bill is actually \$3,501,653,000 below the request level.

The Committee's recommendation is consistent with the allocation for the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The Committee has made difficult but necessary decisions to craft a bill that meets strict fiscal limitations. Within these boundaries, the Committee has achieved a careful balance between the competing priorities of law enforcement, national security, economic development, scientific research, and space exploration. As a result, this bill represents responsible spending at a time when America is living within a constrained budget.

The Committee recognizes that the administration's budget requests for large programmatic increases, coupled with costly new initiatives, would continue to add financial pressure on existing core programs and operations throughout the bill. This is especially true for the Department of Commerce, which is responsible for a variety of activities critical to our Nation's economic and scientific well-being, and also manages expensive, high-risk activities, including the build-up to the 2020 Decennial Census and efforts to launch the next generation of weather satellites. Strict oversight and fiscal responsibility are essential for the Department's success in fiscal year 2016.

This Committee remains supportive of science and innovation, and has worked to maintain a healthy funding level for the National Science Foundation while preserving a balanced and productive space program within the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA]. Despite persistent concerns about the administration's fiscal priorities within the Nation's space program, the Committee sees great opportunity for NASA to advance scientific knowledge and to boldly expand human exploration. This bill makes it possible for NASA to achieve efficient and cost-effective operations for the agency's science and exploration missions, many of which will reach critical stages of development during fiscal year 2016.

The constantly changing landscape of criminal activity at home and abroad tests the Department of Justice's ability to deal with emerging threats. The Committee believes that our Federal law enforcement agencies must work together—particularly in tough budget environments—to focus limited resources in a manner that safeguards taxpayer dollars while preserving public safety.

While funding for the Department of Justice is one of the Federal Government's highest priorities, the Committee is concerned that even in the midst of the current fiscal climate, the administration has proposed new grant programs and initiatives that would further stretch the Department's spending. The Committee believes that funding new initiatives will come at a cost to the Department of Justice's core functions, particularly when funding for existing and effective grant programs is already in jeopardy.

This bill follows the Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal year 2016 by providing \$2,602,000,000 through the Crime Victims Fund [CVF], which is \$241,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$1,602,000,000 above the request. The Committee notes that this amount represents a 349-percent increase compared to the fiscal year 2014 level, and is \$70,000,000 above the \$2,532,000,000 3-year average of deposits in the CVF.

Given the significant increase in CVF spending and the Committee's concern for fiscal oversight, this bill uses \$379,000,000 from the CVF for victim-related discretionary grants in the Department of Justice's State and local accounts. The Committee has previously avoided requests to fund victim-related discretionary grants out of this fund due to the low caps on CVF spending in prior fiscal years. However, current fiscal constraints, coupled with increased spending out of the CVF, makes supporting important victim programs with discretionary funding no longer tenable. As a result, overall funding for these entire grant programs, which are widely supported by many members of the Committee, remains close to the fiscal year 2015 enacted levels.

FIGHTING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

The departments, agencies, boards, and commissions funded in this bill can and should continue to reduce operating expenses by placing greater scrutiny on overhead costs. Savings can and should be achieved by reducing non-essential travel, office supply, rent, and utility costs. The Committee also calls on departments, agencies, boards, and commissions funded in this bill to continue to achieve savings by lowering travel contractor costs related to air fares. The Committee continues longstanding restrictions on first class travel and includes provisions to improve travel reporting.

The Committee has also reduced official reception and representation funds by 25 percent since fiscal year 2011. Modest representation funds are included for agency executives to provide necessary courtesies to our diplomatic partners and hold events to honor fallen officers, or to mark historic occasions such as space exploration missions or stunning discoveries. However, savings can and should be achieved by reducing the costs of executive meetings, receptions, ceremonies, and conferences, and purchasing fewer promotional items such as t-shirts, hats, mugs, key chains, and other similar items.

The Committee is extremely concerned about the persistent pattern of cost overruns and schedule slippages on major projects and missions carried out by the agencies within this bill. In addition, reports have exposed a culture within many agencies that exhibits a lack of accountability and oversight of grant funding. Therefore, the Committee has continued six bill-wide provisions to ensure greater oversight and fiscal responsibility of taxpayer dollars.

First, the bill requires each agency to notify the Committee immediately upon identification of program cost overruns greater than 10 percent.

Second, the bill requires the Inspectors General of the Departments of Commerce and Justice, NASA, NSF, and the Legal Services Corporation to conduct reviews of grant and contract funds to ensure funds are being spent appropriately.

Third, the bill requires each department, agency, board, and commission funded in this act to report spending on large conferences, with costs in excess of \$100,000 each, to the Inspectors General for audit.

Fourth, the bill prohibits each department, agency, board, and commission funded in this act from awarding grants and cooperative agreements to tax cheats and felons.

Fifth, the bill requires all departments and agencies to link all contracts that provide award fees to successful acquisition outcomes, and prohibits funds to pay for award or incentive fees for contractors with below satisfactory performance.

Finally, the Committee intends to continue to work with the Government Accountability Office [GAO] to review selected large-scale acquisition and construction projects. Specifically, the Committee directs ongoing GAO reviews of large NASA projects and separate reviews of the James Webb Space Telescope, with reports to the Committee on a biannual basis. Agencies shall provide access to all necessary data, as determined by the GAO, in order for the reviews to be completed and provided in a timely manner to the Committee. The Committee believes that these project status reports are valuable in identifying cost overrun and schedule slippage problems early so they can be addressed immediately.

REPROGRAMMINGS, REORGANIZATIONS, AND RELOCATIONS

Section 505 contained in the "General Provisions" of title V provides procedures for the reprogramming of funds. To reprogram is to change the use of funds from the specific purposes provided for in the act and the accompanying report or, in the absence of direction from the Committee, from the specific purposes provided for in the administration's budget request. Each title of the bill has also traditionally included separate provisions that define permissible transfers of resources between appropriation accounts. These transfer authority provisions are also pursuant to section 505, and were initiated in the early 1990s to provide additional flexibility to the agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction.

The Committee expects each department and agency to closely follow the reprogramming procedures listed in section 505. These procedures apply to funds provided under this act, or provided under previous appropriations acts that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2016, or provided from any ac-

counts in the Treasury available to the agencies funded by this act. Section 505 requires that the Committee on Appropriations be notified by letter, at least 15 days prior to reprogramming of funds, whether permanent or temporary, in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, between programs, projects or activities. This provision is also applicable in cases where several activities are involved with each receiving less than \$500,000. In addition, the Committee is to be notified of reprogramming actions which are less than these amounts if such actions would have the effect of: committing the agency to significant funding requirements in future years; increasing funds or personnel by any means for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been previously denied or restricted by Congress; creating new programs, offices, agencies or commissions or substantially augmenting existing programs, offices, agencies or commissions; relocating offices or employees; or reorganizing offices, programs, or activities.

The Committee also expects that any items that are subject to interpretation will be reported. The Committee is concerned that, in some instances, the departments or agencies funded within this appropriations act are not adhering to the Committee's reprogramming guidelines that are clearly set forth in this report and in section 505 of the accompanying bill. The Committee expects that each department and agency funded in the bill will follow these notification policies precisely and will not reallocate resources or reorganize activities prior to submitting the required notifications to the Committee.

The reprogramming process is based on comity between the Appropriations Committee and the administration. The Commerce, Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill provides specific program guidance throughout this report and tables accompanying the bill. The process is intended to provide flexibility to meet changing circumstances and emergency requirements of agencies, if there is agreement between the executive branch and the Congress that such a change is warranted. Reprogramming procedures provide a means to agree on adjustments, if necessary, during a fiscal year, and to ensure that the Committee is kept apprised of instances where nonappropriated resources are used to meet program requirements, such as fee collections and unobligated balances that were not considered in the development of the appropriations legislation.

In the absence of comity and respect for the prerogatives of the Appropriations Committees and Congress in general, the Committee will have no choice but to include specific program limitations and details legislatively. Under these circumstances, programs, projects, and activities become absolutes and the executive branch shall lose the ability to propose changes in the use of appropriated funds through the reprogramming process between programs, projects, and activities without seeking some form of legislative action.

The Committee expects each executive branch department and agency to manage its programs, projects and activities within the levels appropriated. Reprogramming or transfer requests shall be submitted only in the case of an unforeseen emergency or situation

that could not have been anticipated when formulating the budget request for the current fiscal year.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS

The Committee directs that all departments and agencies funded within this bill shall submit all of their fiscal year 2017 budget justifications concurrently with the official submission of the administration's budget to Congress. Further, all departments and agencies with classified programs funded within this act are directed to submit their classified budget justification documents to the Committee, through appropriate means, at the same time the unclassified budget justifications are transmitted.

These justifications shall include a sufficient level of detailed data, exhibits, and explanatory statements to support the appropriations requests, including tables that outline each agency's programs, projects, and activities for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. For example, when requesting an enhancement of resources, the justification should detail the existing program and what the new resources would buy. The Committee directs the chief financial officer of each department or agency funded in this act's jurisdiction to ensure that adequate justification is given to each increase, decrease, staffing and function change proposed in the fiscal year 2017 budget, particularly within the departmental operations and management accounts.

The Committee is concerned that many of the budget submissions are inadequate and necessitate multiple requests for additional information. At times, conflicting information is provided in justifications and other budget briefing documents in particular related to cybersecurity. This process is inefficient and unnecessarily delays access to information that is fundamental to the work of the Committee. The Committee expects that the fiscal year 2017 submissions will include sufficient detail to justify all programs, projects, and activities contained in each department, agency, or commission budget request. Budget justifications are prepared not for the use of the agencies but are the primary tool of the Committee to evaluate the resource requirements and proposals requested by the administration.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Committee is frustrated by the inability of departments and agencies funded in this bill to complete and submit congressionally mandated reports on time. Reports are frequently submitted late, incomplete, or not at all. The Committee directs the departments and agencies funded in this bill to submit reports by their deadlines or to provide advance notification if there is sufficient reason why deadlines cannot be met, along with the expected date of submission.

The Committee also recognizes that some reporting requirements from previous Appropriations bills may no longer be necessary for Committee oversight purposes. In the interest of reducing government waste and expediting responses to current report mandates, each department or agency is invited to submit a list of reporting requirements that it considers outdated or no longer relevant for

the review of the Committees on Appropriations. Any list submitted for review shall be limited to reports required under Appropriations bills, and shall cite the original authority as well as a justification for eliminating each reporting requirement.

REDUCTIONS-IN-FORCE

The Committee directs departments or agencies funded in the accompanying bill that are planning to conduct a reduction-in-force [RIF] to notify the Committee in writing 30 days in advance of the date of the proposed personnel action.

APPROPRIATIONS LIAISONS

The Committee prefers to channel the majority of its inquiries and requests for information and assistance through the budget offices or comptroller offices of the departments and agencies which it oversees, but reserves the right to call upon any individual or organization in any agency under its jurisdiction.

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The Committee recommends a total of \$8,531,113,000 for the Department of Commerce [DOC]. The recommendation is \$10,194,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$1,327,787,000 below the budget request.

The Department of Commerce is responsible for a variety of activities critical to our Nation's well-being, including economic development, intellectual property protection, standards and measurements, trade enforcement, weather forecasting, and fisheries management. Our Nation relies on the Department to maintain America's competitiveness within today's foreign markets while promoting and expanding international trade opportunities. The Department brings together a diverse set of bureaus, specialized experts, research laboratories, and applied technology programs to support and expand opportunities for growth in the private sector. Few departments have such potential to directly impact the strength and sustainability of our communities and local businesses.

Strict oversight of the Department's activities is a top priority for the Committee, as reflected in this act. This includes managing costs for the 2020 Decennial Census; ensuring that flagship weather satellites stay on budget and on schedule; prioritizing high-impact research and development for our Nation's cybersecurity standards; and safeguarding protections for intellectual property to spur innovation and entrepreneurship.

As head of the Department, the Secretary of Commerce oversees these important activities but is also responsible for managing the overall operations and addressing existing and emerging management challenges within DOC. The Committee views the Secretary as a partner in implementing the direction provided in this act and the accompanying report in order to provide strong and necessary oversight and hold the Department and its bureaus accountable for results.

Spending Plans.—Under section 534 of this act, the Department is required to submit a spending plan within 45 days of the enactment of this act. That plan should describe the programs, projects, and activities of the Department so that the Committee receives detailed descriptions of how the Department intends to operationalize the funding provided in annual appropriations bills. The Committee expects a detailed accounting of each bureau's spending, including reimbursable, fee-funded, or Working Capital Fund spending, particularly with regard to specific programs, projects, and activities described in the bill and accompanying report. The Department shall continue to work with the Committees on Appropriations to ensure that its spending plans provide adequate information for continued oversight of the Department.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION
OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2015	\$472,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	506,750,000
House allowance	467,000,000
Committee recommendation	473,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$473,000,000 for the International Trade Administration [ITA]. The recommendation is \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$33,750,000 below the budget request.

Offsetting Fee Collections.—ITA shall identify and include an accurate assessment of expected fee collections and corresponding expenditures in the fiscal year 2016 spending plan and in the fiscal year 2017 budget request.

Trade Enforcement.—The Committee provides up to \$10,000,000 for the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center [ITEC]. Given the experience and depth of knowledge of ITA's Enforcement and Compliance business unit, the Committee believes ITEC should be directed from within ITA with USTR providing advisory assistance. In addition, not later than 60 days following enactment of this act, the Department shall provide a report to Congress regarding ITEC that shall include: the type of trade violations pursued; available remedies for each violation; and the role each agency plays in the trade enforcement process through ITEC. The Department is further directed to provide a detailed funding profile for ITEC as part of its fiscal year 2016 spending plan.

New Shipper Fraud Enforcement.—The Committee provides the full request for ITA's Enforcement and Compliance unit to combat fraudulent and evasive practices by dishonest new shippers seeking to avoid antidumping and countervailing duty [AD/CVD] rates.

U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service.—The U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service [US&FCS] provides significant value to U.S. businesses looking to expand overseas export opportunities. Given the export potential of emerging and developing economies in Asia and other foreign markets, expanding market access and export opportunities is critical for economic growth in the United States. Therefore, the Committee directs ITA to fund US&FCS, and its core mission of export promotion, at the highest possible level in fiscal year 2016, and at no less than the amount provided in fiscal year 2015.

Sub-Saharan Africa.—In addition to offering unique export opportunities for U.S. businesses, increased trade activities in developing markets can help promote stability, security, and economic growth overseas that benefit U.S. security interests. While the Committee supports trade promotion activities in emerging markets, these activities should not be prioritized over trade promotion in developing markets, particularly those in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Committee encourages ITA to maintain, and when feasible, expand Foreign Commercial Service officers and support staff in developing markets overseas.

SelectUSA.—Up to \$10,000,000 is provided for SelectUSA, except that none of the funds provided may be used to facilitate foreign direct investment in the United States unless a protocol to ensure

that SelectUSA activities do not encourage such investments in the United States by state-owned entities is delivered to the Committee within 30 days of enactment of this act.

China Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Activities.—The Committee provides no less than \$16,400,000 for China AD/CVD enforcement and compliance activities.

Duty Evasion and Circumvention.—The partnership between ITA and U.S. Customs and Border Protection is critical for AD/CVD enforcement. The Committee encourages ITA, working through its U.S. Customs and Border Protection Liaison Unit, to increase efforts and advance methods to better investigate foreign imports suspected of evading or circumventing AD/CVD orders, including but not limited to lightweight thermal paper imports.

Domestic Trade Coordination.—The Committee recognizes the important role that State and local governments play in promoting exports and urges ITA and the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee [TPCC] to support the application of best practices between Federal, State, and local governments in promoting exports. In recent years, the Committee has encouraged the TPCC to collaborate with State resource partners to identify ways to reduce overlap and improve coordination between Federal and State agencies, which could include establishment of a working group including regionally equitable and diverse representatives of State international trade resource centers and Federal agencies involved in export promotion. The Committee directs the TPCC to update the Committee on its progress in improving coordination of Federal, State, and local government export promotion services not later than 90 days after enactment of this act.

Survey of International Air Travelers.—Within funds provided, ITA is encouraged to increase the sample size for the Survey for International Air Travelers.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$54,250,000
Budget estimate, 2016	56,268,000
House allowance	54,250,000
Committee recommendation	54,250,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$54,250,000 for the Office of the United States Trade Representative [USTR]. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and is \$2,018,000 below the budget request. USTR is responsible for developing and leading international negotiations for the United States on policies regarding international trade, direct investment, and commodities. Its areas of responsibility include all matters relating to the World Trade Organization; trade, commodity, and direct investment matters dealt with by certain international institutions; industrial, agricultural, and services trade policy; and trade-related protection of intellectual property and the environment.

Increasing Efficiency.—The Committee notes that the Administration has again proposed to consolidate business and trade-related agencies, including USTR, with certain bureaus in the Department. To help advance these efforts and reduce fragmentation,

the bill consolidates USTR into the Department. Not later than 180 days after enactment of this act, the Committee directs the Department to provide a plan to Congress that would allow the United States Trade Representative to continue functioning as the chief trade negotiator for the United States following USTR's consolidation into the Department.

Economy Act Transfers.—USTR is directed to continue isolating Economy Act payments as individual transfers, and to submit documentation of and justification for all Economy Act transfers, regardless of amount, to and from other Federal agencies, to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 15 days before such transfers of sums are made.

Travel.—USTR is directed to provide monthly travel reports detailing all trips outside of the United States, including the purposes and costs of such trips. Additionally, USTR shall continue to provide the Committee with quarterly reports outlining the status of ongoing trade negotiations, enforcement activities, and objectives achieved for existing trade agreements.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2015	\$102,500,000
Budget estimate, 2016	115,086,000
House allowance	110,000,000
Committee recommendation	106,500,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$106,500,000 for the Bureau of Industry and Security [BIS]. The recommendation is \$4,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$8,586,000 below the budget request.

BIS is the principal agency involved in the development, implementation, and enforcement of export controls for commercial technologies and for many military technologies as a result of the President's export control reform initiative. The Export Enforcement Division detects, prevents, investigates, and assists in the sanctioning of illegal exports of such items.

Export Control Reform.—The Committee supports BIS's work on export control reform and directs the Bureau to continue its exporter outreach program to educate companies of all sizes on the new regulatory requirements resulting from export control reform. In this effort, BIS should continue targeting small- and medium-sized businesses and working with State and local trade and export associations, in addition to working with national industry groups. BIS is further directed to keep the Committee apprised of these important outreach initiatives.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2015	\$250,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	273,028,000
House allowance	250,000,000
Committee recommendation	250,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$250,000,000 for the Economic Development Administration [EDA]. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$23,028,000 below the budget request.

EDA provides grants to local governments and nonprofit agencies for public works, planning, and other projects designed to facilitate economic development. Funding amounts for the two appropriations accounts under this heading are displayed below.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2015	\$213,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	227,500,000
House allowance	213,000,000
Committee recommendation	213,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$213,000,000 for Economic Development Assistance Programs. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$14,500,000 below the budget request. Funding amounts provided by the Committee strongly support EDA's core programs, particularly Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance. EDA is directed to focus on its core programs and mission to aid the most distressed communities across the country. The Committee expects EDA to use all available carryover and prior year recoveries to the maximum extent possible. EDA shall consider geographic equity in making all award decisions and shall ensure that rural projects are adequately represented among those selected for funding. Of the amounts provided, funds are to be distributed as follows. Any deviation of funds shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this act:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

[in thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Public Works	100,000
Economic Adjustment Assistance	48,000
Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms	12,500
Regional Innovation Program	10,000
Partnership Planning	30,000
Technical Assistance	11,000
Research and Evaluation	1,500
Total	213,000

Economic Adjustment Assistance.—Within the amounts provided for Economic Adjustment Assistance, the Committee provides up to \$10,000,000 for EDA to support activities to spur regional innovation through grants as authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 and provides up to \$2,000,000 for innovative energy efficiency grants. Additionally, \$3,000,000 shall

be for grants made to States within the Appalachian Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 14101 et seq.) and \$3,000,000 shall be for grants made available to the Delta Regional Authority [DRA] (7 U.S.C. 2009aa et seq.). The Committee supports EDA's past collaborations with the DRA and encourages EDA to seek further opportunities to leverage and partner with DRA to better assist distressed communities, create jobs, and improve lives in the eight-State Delta region.

Regional Innovation Program.—The Committee provides \$10,000,000 to EDA for grants under the Regional Innovation Program [RIP] as authorized under the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-235). RIP awards competitive grants to regional entities in support of innovation and entrepreneurship. EDA shall continue to ensure that RIP awards go to multiple grantees in multiple and diverse geographic areas.

In addition, the Committee directs EDA to invest in university-based, high-tech business incubators to encourage entrepreneurship and promote technology commercialization through business startups. EDA should prioritize funds for incubator projects where a State has made significant financial commitment to establishing an incubator program.

Furthermore, within funds provided for RIP, \$2,000,000 shall be for cluster grants to support nonprofit, job-creating, revolving, equity-based seed capital funds.

Job Losses From Nuclear Power Plant Closures.—The Committee notes that recent closures of nuclear power plants throughout the United States have had a negative impact on the economic foundations of surrounding communities, and there is potential for additional plant closures in coming years. Research shows that the long-term economic impacts and job losses from nuclear power plant closures are substantial and difficult to address. The Committee encourages EDA to help identify and develop best practices to assist communities affected by nuclear power plant closures, including the coordination of economic development efforts across multiple States or Economic Development Districts.

Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership Program [IMCP].—The Committee notes that no funding has been requested and no funding is provided for the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership Program [IMCP] for fiscal year 2016. The Committee remains concerned with the underlying premise of IMCP and the potential for negative impacts on communities not designated under the IMCP program. The Committee is still awaiting the report mandated in fiscal year 2015, in which the Department was directed to provide a plan to better utilize existing programs to assist various types of distressed communities across the country using a bottom-up, demand-driven approach to manufacturing investment. The Department is directed to deliver this report to the Committee without delay.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$37,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	45,528,000
House allowance	37,000,000
Committee recommendation	37,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$37,000,000 for salaries and expenses. The recommendation is the same as the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$8,528,000 below the budget request.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Appropriations, 2015	\$30,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	30,016,000
House allowance	32,000,000
Committee recommendation	30,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$30,000,000 for the Minority Business Development Agency [MBDA]. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and is \$16,000 below the budget request. MBDA is the only Federal agency dedicated to promoting the growth of minority-owned firms and assists small, medium, and large minority business enterprises increase revenues and create jobs.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$100,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	113,849,000
House allowance	100,000,000
Committee recommendation	100,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$100,000,000 for Economic and Statistical Analysis [ESA]. The recommendation is the same as the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$13,849,000 below the budget request. ESA conducts research to provide a better understanding of the U.S. economy, which helps Government make more informed policy decisions. Within the amounts provided, the Committee directs the agency to complete the scheduled move of its headquarters in fiscal year 2016.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Appropriations, 2015	\$1,088,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	1,499,974,000
House allowance	991,700,000
Committee recommendation	1,128,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$1,128,000,000 for the Census Bureau. The recommendation is \$40,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$371,974,000 below the budget request.

The Committee approves the proposed realignment of Census programs found within the fiscal year 2016 budget request. Beginning with fiscal year 2016, the account structure will consist of the Current Surveys and Programs account and the Periodic Censuses and Programs account.

CURRENT SURVEYS AND PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2015	\$248,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	277,873,000
House allowance	261,000,000
Committee recommendation	266,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$266,000,000 for current surveys and programs. The recommendation is \$18,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$11,873,000 below the budget request. This account provides for the salaries and expenses associated with the statistical programs of the Bureau of the Census, including measurement of the Nation's economy and the demographic characteristics of the population.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2015	\$840,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	1,222,101,000
House allowance	730,700,000
Committee recommendation	862,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$862,000,000 for periodic censuses and programs. The recommendation is \$22,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$360,101,000 below the budget request.

This account provides for the constitutionally mandated Decennial Census as well as other cyclical programs. Additionally, individual surveys are conducted for other Federal agencies on a reimbursable basis.

Oversight of Periodic Census Programs.—The Committee's recommendation provides \$1,551,000 for the Office of Inspector General [OIG] to continue oversight and audits of periodic censuses and to provide the Bureau and Congress with independent recommendations for improving operations, which will be useful for oversight of the 2020 Decennial Census. The Committee directs the Bureau to incorporate the OIG's recommendations as it transitions into the 2020 Decennial Census.

Monthly Status Reports.—The Census Bureau is directed to continue its dashboard monthly status reports to the Committee as it transitions into preparations for the 2020 Decennial Census.

2020 Decennial Census.—Controlling costs for the 2020 Decennial Census remains a top oversight concern for the Committee. The Bureau shall continue to bring down the cost of the 2020 Decennial Census to a level less than the 2010 Census with the goal of spending less than the 2000 Census, not adjusting for inflation. The Committee notes that the amount of funding provided in this bill for the 2020 Census is 34 percent above the amount that was appropriated in fiscal year 2006 for the 2010 Census. Such a comparison does not take into consideration the Bureau's conscientious decision to conduct early planning and testing activities well ahead of the 2020 Census compared to when such activities began for the 2010 Census. However, the contrast illustrates how mindful the Committee is of the Bureau's budget profiles, and expects that the increased spending for testing early in this cycle result in significant cost savings over the entire course of the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau is directed to prioritize spending for activities that have the greatest potential to reduce cost and risk for the 2020 Census.

Administrative Records.—The Census Bureau plans to save money during the 2020 Decennial Census cycle by using existing records and data to reduce unnecessary and costly duplication and to conduct more efficient non-response follow up. The Bureau is directed to work with Federal, State, tribal, local, and other partners to obtain the necessary records. The Bureau shall report to the Committee and to the OIG within 90 days of enactment of this act on its current access and any additional administrative records necessary for the effective execution of the 2020 Census.

Census Enterprise Data Collection and Processing.—The Committee recognizes the Bureau's need to develop a more efficient and secure data processing system well in advance of the 2020 Census through the Census Enterprise Data Collection and Processing [CEDCaP] initiative. This initiative will create a single enterprise data system that can be scaled up for the Decennial Census and scaled down during years that require less data processing capacity while lowering the cost of maintaining, operating, and securing current systems.

The Committee directs the Census Bureau to ensure that cost estimates and implementation timelines are maintained and that the new system is fully secured against cyber attacks and intrusions

before it becomes operational. The Bureau is directed to cooperate with the OIG on all oversight activities for this system and shall brief the Committee on the development and implementation schedule for CEDCaP not less than 60 days after enactment of this act.

American Community Survey [ACS].—The Committee supports the ACS and directs the Bureau to continue using the ACS as a testbed for innovative survey and data processing techniques that will help to save money and reduce risk during the 2020 Census cycle. The Committee also notes that ACS is often the primary or only source of data available to States, localities, and Federal agencies that need adequate information on a wide range of topics, including the needs of veterans, retirees, and families with school-age children in order to reliably serve those constituents. ACS is especially important to Americans who live in small towns and rural areas, as this survey provides the only reliable and consistent source of information about these communities. Additionally, the Committee directs the Census Bureau to again provide an updated report to the Committee not later than 120 days after enactment of this act on efforts to evaluate and, where possible, to reduce questions included in the ACS, and the steps being taken by the ombudsman or “respondent advocate” position established by the Census Bureau in fiscal year 2013 to ensure that the ACS is conducted as efficiently and unobtrusively as possible.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
ADMINISTRATION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$38,200,000
Budget estimate, 2016	49,232,000
House allowance	35,200,000
Committee recommendation	38,200,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$38,200,000 for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration [NTIA] salaries and expenses. The recommendation is the same as the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$11,032,000 below the budget request.

The Committee retains language from previous years allowing the Secretary of Commerce to collect reimbursements from other Federal agencies for a portion of the cost resulting from the coordination of spectrum management, analysis, and operations. NTIA shall submit a report to the Committee no later than June 1, 2016, detailing the collection of reimbursements from other agencies.

Broadband.—The Committee’s recommendation does not include any funding to make new broadband grant awards. However, the Committee supports the continued monitoring of existing broadband grants for financial oversight and accountability purposes, and directs NTIA to ensure that funds are used appropriately by recipients.

Spectrum Management.—The Committee directs NTIA to continue to evaluate options for repurposing spectrum for broadband in support of the President’s goal of making 500 MHz of spectrum available for wireless broadband use. NTIA shall also provide the Committee with quarterly updates on making 500 MHz of spectrum available for commercial mobile use, including the strategy for freeing up additional spectrum from Federal agencies.

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers [ICANN].—The Committee remains concerned that the Department of Commerce, through NTIA, has not been a strong advocate for American companies and consumers and urges greater participation and advocacy within the Governmental Advisory Committee [GAC] and any other mechanisms within ICANN in which NTIA is a participant. The Committee strongly encourages NTIA to be an active supporter of the interests of the Nation within ICANN and to ensure that the principles of accountability, transparency, security, and stability of the Internet are maintained for consumers, businesses, and Government.

Internet Governance.—The Committee understands NTIA’s plans to transition the agency’s technical stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority [IANA] and that NTIA is currently awaiting the delivery of a transition plan that it can evaluate. The current IANA contract expires at the end of September 2015, and at this time, NTIA is preparing to evaluate its option to extend that contract. This is being done with the expectation that a transition plan will not be put forward early enough to fully evaluate before the expiration of the current IANA contract. The Committee continues to be concerned about this process and directs NTIA to continue its quarterly reports to the Committee on all aspects of

the transition process, and further directs NTIA to inform the Committee and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, not less than 45 days in advance of any decision with respect to a successor contract.

FirstNet.—The Committee is supportive of FirstNet’s funding agreement with the Department of Commerce’s Inspector General for the purposes of oversight and accountability of FirstNet through the end of fiscal year 2016. The Committee also continues to encourage FirstNet to consider using deployable technologies in locations and circumstances where they are more cost effective than alternative technologies.

PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, PLANNING, AND CONSTRUCTION

The Committee provides bill language allowing the NTIA to continue oversight and administration of previously awarded grants. NTIA shall not use unobligated balances to award new grants.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$3,458,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	3,272,000,000
House allowance	3,272,000,000
Committee recommendation	3,272,000,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$3,272,000,000 for the United States Patent and Trademark Office [USPTO], which is \$186,000,000 below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request, to be derived from offsetting fee collections.

USPTO examines patent applications, grants patent protection for qualified inventions, and disseminates technological information disclosed in patents. USPTO also examines trademark applications and provides Federal registration to owners of qualified trademarks.

Patent Fee Collections.—The Committee is concerned that patent fee collections have fallen significantly below projected amounts in recent years, while spending at USPTO continues to increase. The Committee appreciates that USPTO has fee reserve and operating reserve accounts to accommodate increased spending in fiscal year 2016, and additionally appreciates that low collections may stem from efficiencies gained by reducing application appeals or from external factors beyond the agency’s control. However, the Committee remains concerned that the agency has not articulated a long-term plan for significantly reducing its costs and expenditures if patent fee collections remain low. Therefore, USPTO is directed to include such a plan in its fiscal year 2017 budget request.

Budget Execution.—The Committee continues to allow USPTO full access to patent and trademark fees and provides language allowing USPTO to retain any revenue in excess of appropriated levels.

Transfer to Office of Inspector General.—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for the Office of Inspector General [OIG] to continue oversight and audits of USPTO operations and budget trans-

parency, and USPTO is directed to work with the Department of Commerce to implement all OIG recommendations.

Reprogramming and Spend Plan.—USPTO shall follow the reprogramming procedures outlined in section 505 of this act before using excess fee collections to forward fund expenses beyond fiscal year 2016. Any deviations from the funding distribution provided for, including carryover balances, are subject to the standard reprogramming procedures set forth in section 505 of this act. USPTO is directed to provide, as part of the spending plan required in section 534 of this act, all carryover balances from previous fiscal years, and a description of any changes to the patent or trademark fee structure. Any changes from the spending plan shall also be subject to section 505 of this act. USPTO is directed to submit all reprogramming requests, spending plans, and budget justifications to the Committee through the Department of Commerce.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

Appropriations, 2015	\$863,900,000
Budget estimate, 2016	1,119,661,000
House allowance	855,000,000
Committee recommendation	893,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$893,000,000 for the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST]. The recommendation is \$29,100,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$226,661,000 below the budget request. Up to \$9,000,000 may be transferred from the Scientific and Technical Research and Services account to the Working Capital Fund.

NIST's mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

A description of each NIST account and the corresponding Committee recommendation follows in the subsequent three headings.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

Appropriations, 2015	\$675,500,000
Budget estimate, 2016	754,661,000
House allowance	675,000,000
Committee recommendation	684,700,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$684,700,000 for NIST research and services. The recommendation is \$9,200,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$69,961,000 below the budget request. The Committee requests a detailed spending plan for NIST's highest priority laboratory programs describing resources used for each program, project, or activity.

Cybersecurity.—The Committee supports the administration's request for cybersecurity activities within NIST, which includes: \$15,000,000 for the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence [NCCoE]; \$16,500,000 for the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace [NSTIC], including further pilots; and \$4,400,000 for the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education in order to address the need for a well-trained cybersecurity workforce. In addition, the Committee provides no less than \$72,700,000 for cybersecurity research and development, an increase of \$7,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 level for cryptographic standards.

National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence.—The Committee is encouraged by the work conducted to date by the NCCoE and the growing partnerships it is developing with private industry. The NCCoE is quickly becoming a premiere partnership through which the Federal Government, industry, and academia collaborate to solve daunting cybersecurity challenges. The Committee recommends that NIST continue to work in concert with its public, State, and county partners to encourage co-location of companies involved in NCCoE activities, which will encourage further innovation by leveraging the development of new applications, business use cases, and technology transfer among all stakeholders.

In addition, the Committee directs NIST to integrate the NSTIC program into the umbrella of the NCCoE. The Committee feels strongly that housing NSTIC under the NCCoE will allow NIST to

leverage existing programmatic assets, ensuring that each program's objectives are accomplished.

Retail Sector Cybersecurity.—The Committee commends the NCCoE's move to create a specific initiative on cybersecurity tools to protect the retail sector and its customers. The Nation's retail sector is increasingly vulnerable to and targeted by cyber attacks that seek both private customer data and valuable intellectual property. These intrusions threaten the growing e-commerce marketplace. Therefore, the Committee encourages the NCCoE to continue working to address this critical issue and expeditiously build use cases and tools in partnership with retailers and universities that have experience in this area.

Cybersecurity Research and Grants.—The Committee encourages DOC to fund multidisciplinary programs of study and research that focus on tackling cybersecurity issues on a global scale. When establishing criteria for external grant funding, consideration should only be given to institutions of higher education, including community colleges, designated by the National Security Agency as Centers of Academic Excellence for Information Assurance Education and Centers for Academic Excellence for Information Assurance Research.

Centers of Excellence.—The Committee encourages NIST to propose funding to create an appropriate number of new centers of excellence in future fiscal years, including in such fields as regenerative medicine and advanced photonics.

Disaster Resilient Buildings.—The Committee provides the full requested amount for Disaster Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure, of which up to \$5,000,000 shall be distributed through competitive external awards to academic institutions to support the evaluation of potential technologies and architectural design criteria to aid the overall effort for science-based building codes to improve disaster resilience.

Sports Safety Standards.—The Committee encourages NIST to investigate the development of new and better standards for testing sports equipment that is supported through independent research, governance, and industrial independence. Testing should replicate on-field impacts to produce data for "worst-practical-impact" conditions that can be incorporated into better standards. Such standards will lead to research and development of new safety equipment and state-of-the-art gear that significantly reduce athletic injuries.

Urban Dome Program.—The Committee notes the value of NIST's Urban Dome program and the importance of accurate measurement science for environmental monitoring and human health, as more than half the world's population is living in urban areas, and this concentration is expected to intensify over the coming decades. The Committee has included an additional \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 amount for the Office of Special Programs to maintain and expand the number of urban dome locations in fiscal year 2016.

In fiscal year 2015, the Committee directed NIST to submit a plan within 60 days of enactment on the Urban Dome program, including: anticipated outcomes, inclusion of additional U.S. cities, ways the United States can enlist the support of international part-

ners for comparable efforts in other countries, and any plan for transitioning research to operations. NIST is directed to submit this report as expeditiously as possible.

Management Fees.—The Committee is concerned by recent news reports suggesting that certain Federal grant and cooperative agreement recipients have used management fees inappropriately by spending federally awarded funds on, for example, lobbying, alcohol, and entertainment. NIST is directed to ensure that all funding recipients understand and are in compliance with Office of Management and Budget guidance on appropriate uses of such funds.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Appropriations, 2015	\$138,100,000
Budget estimate, 2016	306,000,000
House allowance	130,000,000
Committee recommendation	145,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$145,000,000 for Industrial Technology Services. The recommendation is \$6,900,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$161,000,000 below the budget request. Supporting the Nation's manufacturers, especially small businesses, is critical to keeping America innovative in a global marketplace. The Committee's recommendation provides \$130,000,000 for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program and \$15,000,000 for the Advanced Manufacturing Consortia [AMTech].

Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program [MEP].—The Committee recommends \$130,000,000 for MEP. The Committee supports MEP's focus on strengthening the existing network of MEP centers and providing additional support to centers based on the documented performance of the center's activities and the manufacturing capacity of the area served by the center.

MEP Cost Share.—The Committee is aware of concerns regarding the MEP's current cost-share structure. This matter is currently being considered by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Not later than 45 days after enactment of this act, NIST is directed to provide a report to the Committee and to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, detailing quantifiable metrics on total MEP center funding, including a breakdown of the type of contribution source across centers that have transitioned from the 50 percent Federal, 50 percent non-Federal cost-share to a lower cost-share held by the Federal Government.

Metals-Based Additive Manufacturing.—Within funding amounts provided for AMTech, the Committee provides up to \$5,000,000 for competitive external grants for academic institutions to support research, development, and workforce training to overcome barriers to high-volume additive manufacturing of metals. While the Committee is aware of recent breakthroughs in metals-based additive manufacturing, major technical barriers still exist to dramatically improving build rates that would enable commercial markets to benefit from high-volume, metals-based additive manufacturing.

In addition, NIST is encouraged to support partnerships and research opportunities with academic institutions in the advanced

manufacturing of plastics and polymers and to explore ways to further reduce inefficiencies in the polymer manufacturing and extrusion process.

National Network for Manufacturing Innovation.—The Committee provides up to \$5,000,000 within AMTech to fund NIST’s coordination role for existing NNMI institutes, as authorized by the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–235), including those led by the Department of Defense and Department of Energy. However, no funds are provided for the Department to establish any NIST-led NNMI institutes in fiscal year 2016.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2015	\$50,300,000
Budget estimate, 2016	59,000,000
House allowance	50,000,000
Committee recommendation	63,300,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$63,300,000 for construction of research facilities. The recommendation is \$13,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$4,300,000 above the budget request.

Building 245.—The Committee is disappointed that despite clear need and consistent urging from the Committee, no funding was requested to begin renovating Building 245, a 53-year-old radiation physics research laboratory that does not currently meet NIST’s research needs or safety requirements. NIST shall spend no less than \$13,000,000 to begin design and renovation of Building 245 in fiscal year 2016. NIST shall use a design/build contract to ensure the fastest possible start to the project, and is also directed to request sufficient construction funds for Building 245 in the fiscal year 2017 budget request.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2015	\$5,440,973,000
Budget estimate, 2016	5,974,689,000
House allowance	5,169,261,000
Committee recommendation	5,381,567,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$5,381,567,000 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA]. The recommendation is \$59,406,000 below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$593,122,000 below the budget request.

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2015	\$3,202,398,000
Budget estimate, 2016	3,413,360,000
House allowance	3,149,877,000
Committee recommendation	3,242,723,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$3,242,723,000 for NOAA's operations, research, and facilities. The recommendation is \$40,325,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$170,637,000 below the budget request.

NOAA NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

The Committee's recommendation provides \$497,370,000 for the National Ocean Service [NOS]. NOS programs provide scientific, technical, and management expertise to promote safe navigation; assess the health of coastal and marine resources; respond to natural and human-induced threats; and preserve coastal and ocean environments.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES
(In thousands of dollars)

	Committee recommendation
Navigation, Observations and Positioning:	
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	149,000
Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts	25,000
Integrated Ocean Observing System—Regional Observations	29,500
Total, Navigation, Observations and Positioning	203,500
Coastal Science and Assessment:	
Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration	72,600
Competitive External Research	9,000
Total, Coastal Science and Assessment	81,600
Ocean and Coastal Management and Services:	
Coastal Zone Management and Services	39,570
Coastal Management Grants	75,000
Coral Reef Program	26,000
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	23,000
National Marine Sanctuaries	48,700
Total, Ocean and Coastal Management and Services	212,270
GRAND TOTAL NOS	497,370

Navigation, Observations and Positioning.—The Committee supports the administration's request for activities under Navigation, Observations and Positioning, including the full operational funding for NOAA's Navigation Response Teams. In addition, not more than 5 percent of the funds available for the Hydrographic Surveys and Contracts program may be used for administrative expenses within NOAA.

Not later than 270 days after enactment of this act, NOAA shall provide a report to the Committee containing full cost estimates for accomplishing the hydrographic, shoreline, geodetic, and tidal surveys in the territories of the United States that are located in the Arctic Ocean, as described in the February 15, 2013, edition of NOAA's Arctic Nautical Charting Plan. Such a report shall include corresponding timelines for completing all initial surveys and a recommended long-term schedule for conducting periodic survey updates. NOAA is further directed to report within 45 days of enactment of this act on hydrographic activities planned for fiscal year 2016, including: vessels to be utilized, areas to be surveyed, and remaining gaps in the arctic region.

The Committee provides \$6,000,000 within Navigation, Observations and Positioning to continue the competitive Geospatial Modeling Grants Program of which all funding shall be distributed externally.

The Committee provides \$5,500,000 for the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System [PORTS]. The Committee believes these operations, which exist as a partnership between NOAA and local port authorities, provide valuable information for safe vessel navigation and data for weather and coastal monitoring. The Committee encourages NOAA to request funding that reflects the program's full costs, including operations and maintenance as authorized by Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (Public Law 110-386) in future budget submissions.

The Committee supports the requested level and intended use of funds for Hydrographic Research and Technology Development. The Committee provides an additional \$2,000,000 for NOAA to designate joint ocean and coastal mapping centers in other areas of the country to be co-located with an institution of higher education as authorized by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11). The Committee emphasizes that additional funding is provided for the designation of other joint ocean and coastal mapping centers and therefore should not affect current operations of any existing center.

Integrated Ocean Observing System [IOOS].—The Committee supports NOAA's request for the Integrated Ocean Observing System [IOOS] and for IOOS Regional Observations. Furthermore, the Committee encourages NOS to work more collaboratively with the National Weather Service [NWS] to prioritize buoy management, observations, and repair.

For fiscal year 2016, the Committee supports NOAA's Alliance for Coastal Technologies [ACT] given the program's valuable expertise in marine sensor technology development. The Committee directs NOAA to maintain full funding for ACT within the National Ocean Service.

Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration.—Within the funds provided for Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration, \$2,000,000 shall be for operations and staffing of the Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center [DRC]. The DRC shall continue to serve as the Gulf Coast hub for NOAA's emergency preparedness, response, and recovery operations.

Marine Debris.—The Committee supports the requested level for NOAA's Marine Debris Program. In addition to the ongoing efforts

to fully address marine debris created by the 2011 Japanese tsunami in the Pacific, consideration should be given to marine debris projects in urban communities that include the removal of abandoned vessels and pilings that harm the ecosystem and hinder recreational fishing.

Coastal Management Grants.—The Committee provides a total of \$75,000,000 for Coastal Management Grants. This includes \$70,000,000 for Coastal Zone Management Grants and \$5,000,000 for Regional Coastal Resilience Grants [RCRG]. Within funding for RCRG, NOAA is encouraged to prioritize projects that are coordinated with resilience efforts of State, Federal, tribal partners, non-governmental organizations, and academia. However, NOAA may only award these funds to coastal State projects that have the expressed written support of the State's Governor.

Resource Management in the Pacific.—The Committee notes recent executive actions to expand the Federal role in Pacific resource management, including the expansion of the Pacific Remote Island Marine National Monument and the designation of a new National Estuarine Research Reserve System [NERRS] site in Hawai'i. However, to advance U.S. interests in the Pacific meaningfully, these administrative actions should be balanced with available funding and resources. Within 120 days of enactment of this act, NOAA is directed to provide a report detailing enforcement, research, and management requirements—along with estimated costs—for these new and proposed expansions to Federal jurisdiction, so that the Committee may properly assess their costs and benefits.

National Estuarine Research Reserve System.—The Committee provides \$23,000,000 for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System [NERRS], which is \$1,700,000 above the President's request and the same as the fiscal year 2015 enacted level. NERRS sites provide mixed-use areas that are protected for long-term research, monitoring, education, and coastal stewardship. The program is a positive example of State and Federal partnership. However, the Committee is concerned that with an additional site being added to the system, NOAA has failed to request the funding needed to sufficiently maintain the program. The Committee directs NOAA to work with NERRS sites and with State and local partners to develop a strategic plan for NERRS and its resource needs. The plan should also describe how NERRS fits into NOAA's science and resilience mission.

NOAA NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$830,572,000 for the National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]. NMFS programs provide for the management and conservation of the Nation’s living marine resources and their environment, including fish stocks, marine mammals, and endangered species. The Committee adopts the revised budget structure proposed in the budget request, except that the Committee rejects NMFS’s proposal to consolidate Atlantic Salmon and Pacific Salmon into a single Project, Program, or Activity line.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES
 (In thousands of dollars)

	Committee recommendation
Protected Resources Science and Management:	
Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species	110,246
Species Recovery Grants	6,000
Atlantic Salmon	6,163
Pacific Salmon	60,000
Total, Protected Resources Science and Management	182,409
Fisheries Science and Management:	
Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services	134,489
Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys and Assessments	163,271
Observers and Training	43,655
Fisheries Management Programs and Services	114,545
Aquaculture	7,000
Salmon Management Activities	30,200
Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions	33,470
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	3,000
Total, Fisheries Science and Management	529,630
Enforcement:	
Enforcement	67,049
Total, Enforcement	67,049
Habitat Conservation and Restoration:	
Habitat Management and Restoration	51,484
Total, Habitat Conservation and Restoration	51,484
GRAND TOTAL NMFS	830,572

Marine Mammal Protection.—The Committee supports NMFS’s mission under this activity to monitor, protect, and recover at-risk marine mammal species who were listed under the Endangered Species Act in 2005, but whose populations continue to decline. The Committee encourages NMFS to utilize funding for the protection and recovery of marine mammal species at risk due to factors such as limited prey species, water-borne toxin accumulation, and vessel and sound impacts.

Species Recovery Grants.—The Committee provides \$6,000,000 for species recovery grants. NOAA is encouraged to seek efficiencies by aligning the program with the applicable Take Reduction Plans,

as it currently does with the Community Based Restoration Program and Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, with the objective of meeting management needs and measuring efficacy of regulatory actions taken to achieve species recovery.

Prescott Grants.—The Committee rejects the administration's proposal to reduce funding for the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program and provides funding equal to the 2015 enacted amount for Prescott grants within the Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species account.

Atlantic Salmon.—NOAA has identified major threats to Atlantic salmon, including interrelated effects of freshwater salmon habitat loss, lost prey buffering, and marine derived nutrients from declines of co-evolved diadromous species. Within the funds provided, the Committee directs NOAA to enable a broader use of funds for restoration of diadromous species and habitats that support salmon recovery by providing ecological functions critical to the Atlantic salmon life cycle. The Committee further directs NOAA to ensure that adequate resources continue to be provided for State agencies to effectively implement the recovery strategy.

Pacific Salmon.—The Committee is concerned that NMFS is not allocating sufficient resources to the West Coast Region to fulfill the agency's full range of Pacific salmon recovery and management requirements in a timely manner. The requirements affect not only the well-being of the species but also important natural resource management decisions in the region such as water allocations. The Committee directs NOAA to provide the funding necessary to support Pacific salmon research and management activities carried out by the West Coast Region, including, but not limited to: Endangered Species Act compliance, reviews and permitting; operational decision support; revisions of Pacific salmon biological opinions; drought mitigation; drought barriers; real-time monitoring; adaptive management programs; and passive integrated transponder tagging programs.

Promote and Develop Fisheries Products and Research Funding Transfer.—The bill maintains the provision restricting the use of the Promote and Develop Fisheries Products and Research funds transferred from the Department of Agriculture to NOAA in a way that better meets the intended purpose of the transfer mandated by the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act. None of the funds may be used for internal NOAA or Department of Commerce management but rather funds may only be used for activities that directly help U.S. fisheries and fishery communities. Specifically, these funds may only be used for: cooperative research; annual stock assessments; efforts to improve data collection, including catch monitoring and reporting for commercial, charter, and recreational fisheries; interjurisdictional fisheries grants; and Fisheries Information Networks.

As part of the fiscal year 2016 spending plan, NOAA shall include a clear accounting of how the Promote and Develop transfer funds will be allocated based on the funding criteria described in this bill.

The Committee further directs that not less than 10 percent of the total amount of the transferred funds shall be provided for the competitive Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant program. NOAA shall consult with each Regional Fishery Management Council and the Ma-

rine Fisheries Commissions to identify regional funding priorities. Prior to the expenditure of any of these funds, NOAA shall provide the Committee with a detailed spending plan describing which fisheries activities will be funded in each of the regions and how the plan incorporates regional priorities.

Red Snapper Stock Assessments.—Within the amount provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides an increase of \$5,000,000 for the development and implementation of agency-independent and alternative approaches to research and stock assessments of reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. The Committee is disappointed that NOAA has failed to implement procedures to adequately measure red snapper stocks in the northern Gulf—particularly in areas with physical structures such as offshore oil rigs and artificial reefs. NOAA is directed to begin incorporating fishery data collected on artificial reefs, offshore oil platforms, and any other offshore fixed energy exploration infrastructure directly into the agency's stock assessments for reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. Furthermore, not later than 60 days following enactment of this act, NOAA shall provide a report to the Committee detailing how new technologies and alternative approaches will be used to accurately assess fish populations surrounding such structures and how these data will be used for fishery management decisions in fiscal year 2016.

In addition, if an increase is made to the acceptable biological catch for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico as a result of the direction provided in this report for stock assessments, the Committee urges NOAA to consider allocating not less than 80 percent of any total above the historical high of 10 million pounds of quota to the recreational sector. While all sectors have faced challenges in the gulf red snapper fishery, the private boat recreational sector has been especially impacted.

Ecosystem Imbalance.—NOAA shall take into consideration any imbalance in the ecosystem that may be occurring between larger red snapper and other fish species before accepting amendments to existing regulations or implementing new regulations that directly affect red snapper quotas in the Gulf of Mexico.

Epipelagic Apex Predators.—The Committee acknowledges growing evidence that yellowfin tuna and other epipelagic apex predators are aggregating at offshore oil platforms in a similar manner to their more traditional aggregation points. These offshore platforms may alter yellowfin or other epipelagic apex predator movements, diet, diseases, growth, age at maturity, and spawning. However, NOAA lacks fundamental data on how this new association may impact these important species. Within funding provided, NOAA shall examine the impact of offshore oil platforms on the biology of highly migratory species such as yellowfin tuna.

Marine Recreational Information Program.—The Committee remains concerned about the accuracy, reliability, and timeliness of recreational fisheries data collected and analyzed by NOAA's fisheries science centers. The Committee notes that, on one side of the recreational fishing management equation, NMFS is taking steps to more accurately estimate the amount of fish caught through improvements to the Marine Recreational Information Program [MRIP]. However, this raises serious concerns for the Committee

regarding the second half of the equation: if NMFS moves forward to improve estimations of total recreational catch without also significantly improving methods to estimate fish populations, including reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico, the results will be skewed—leading to even more harmful management decisions. Therefore, no funding is provided to implement the May 5, 2015, MRIP report titled “Transition Plan for the Fishing Effort Survey” until NMFS stock assessments are sufficiently advanced, including fully accounting for Gulf of Mexico reef fish inhabiting areas of artificial reefs and fixed offshore energy infrastructure. NMFS shall continue the development process and public outreach regarding MRIP’s transition plan.

Salmon Management Activities.—Within the amount provided for Salmon Management activities, the Committee recommends \$10,900,000 to enable States and tribal communities to implement necessary Pacific Salmon Treaty agreements. The Committee fully supports all other aspects of the budget request for Salmon Management activities that are essential to meeting these treaty obligations. The Committee also provides additional funding above the request to be used for the operation and maintenance of Mitchell Act hatcheries.

Baseline Data for Gulf of Mexico.—The Committee directs NOAA to continue supporting baseline research for fisheries health in the Gulf of Mexico, including studies of pelagic species. NOAA is encouraged to increase and continue collaborations in the gulf to establish an integrated and comprehensive ecosystem-level fisheries monitoring enterprise and sentinel species program.

Charter Vessels.—To help improve the quality and abundance of fishery data used for stock assessments, the Committee continues to encourage NOAA to expand the agency’s activities in chartering commercial fishing vessels to serve as research and fishery survey vessels. Increasing these charter opportunities will enlarge the geographically diverse data collection for broad fish populations and enhance numerous ocean research programs. Other parts of NOAA, including the National Ocean Service and the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research line offices, are encouraged to charter commercial fishing vessels, when applicable, to augment ongoing survey and research activities.

American Lobster.—The southern New England stock of American lobster continues to decline and is under increasing stress. Although the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission exercises primary regulatory responsibility for this fishery, portions of six out of seven management areas are in Federal waters. NMFS implements complementary regulations for the fishery in these areas, but a lack of data about the condition of this fishery still exists. To improve coordination and consistency, the Committee again directs NMFS to engage the industry in conducting surveys and research that complement activities undertaken by the States. NOAA has not yet submitted the progress report on this issue as directed by this Committee in fiscal year 2015, and is therefore directed to submit this report within 45 days of enactment of this act.

Bycatch Reduction.—The development and implementation of practical bycatch solutions is a priority for U.S. and international fisheries management and protected species conservation. The

Committee supports the requested amount for Reducing Bycatch, of which NMFS is directed to make \$2,500,000 available for competitive grants to non-Federal researchers working with U.S. fishermen on the development of improved fishing practices and innovative gear technologies.

Observers and Training.—Since fiscal year 2012, the Committee has directed NMFS to provide adequate funding for at-sea and dockside monitoring for all fisheries with approved catch share management plans, including those catch share management plans that impose observer coverage for new or expanded fishing opportunities. The Committee is aware that implementation of some management programs continue to present substantial financial challenges to the participants as well as to the economic sustainability of the fishery and fishing communities throughout the region. Given these ongoing problems, the Committee encourages NMFS to continue working with regional fishery programs to identify adequate support for at-sea and dockside monitoring for fisheries with approved catch share management plans. Recognizing the financial challenges facing participants, including those in the Northeast Multispecies fishery sector management program, the Committee also directs NMFS to work with the regional fishery programs on a transition plan to an at-sea and dockside monitoring program that is more cost effective, accurate, and commensurate with the ex-vessel value, including through the implementation of newer and more feasible monitoring regimens such as electronic monitoring capabilities.

Electronic Monitoring and Reporting.—Within Fisheries Ecosystem Science Programs and Services, the Committee provides NMFS's full request for Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting [EM/ER] to support the development, testing, and installation of EM/ER technologies across the country. The Committee recognizes that advancements in EM/ER have the potential to cut costs and improve data collection for most U.S. fisheries. Within the funds provided for these activities, not less than \$3,000,000 shall be available, in accordance with 16 U.S.C. 3701, for collaborative partnerships that include non-Federal matching funds to implement cost-shared EM/ER programs that support fisheries conservation and management. During the development and implementation of electronic reporting and monitoring programs, NOAA shall consult directly with industry and work through the Fishery Management Councils (established under sections 1851 and 1852 of title 16) to develop appropriate cost-sharing arrangements that are commensurate with the ex-vessel value of the fishery.

Furthermore, NMFS shall continue to work in fiscal year 2016 with the charter for-hire recreational fishery in the Gulf of Mexico; the Northeast Multispecies/groundfish fishery fleet, including small vessels within that fleet; and any regional fishery fleet interested in implementing EM/ER technologies to better track information that is currently collected through the use of human observers. The Committee is aware that the Northeast Fishery Management Council has been working with NMFS to begin the transition to electronic monitoring systems. NMFS is directed to begin implementing these systems not later than May 1, 2016, which marks the start of the next fishing year.

With respect to the ongoing evaluation of EM/ER technology on small fixed-gear boats, NMFS is directed to prioritize activities in fiscal year 2016 that utilize currently available technologies that contribute in the near term to improved fisheries management, including but not limited to catch or discard data.

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated [IUU] Fishing.—The Committee provides the requested increase of \$3,000,000 under Enforcement and Surveillance to combat IUU fishing. NOAA is encouraged to continue strengthening its efforts to detect and deter illegally harvested and improperly-documented seafood, including working with other U.S., international, and foreign agencies to ensure fair competition for our country's domestic fishermen and safety for American consumers.

Marine Aquaculture.—In accordance with NOAA's goal of prioritizing aquaculture research in an effort to bolster the United States aquaculture industry, increase seafood supply and security, and avoid the risk of losing U.S. investors to countries that have recognized aquaculture's critical contributions, NOAA is encouraged to ensure that its aquaculture-focused resources, including those at Fisheries Science Centers, have the directive and ability to prioritize aquaculture research and related activities that promote a strong and viable aquaculture industry.

Oyster Aquaculture.—Within the increased funds provided for NMFS Aquaculture, the Committee provides not less than \$1,000,000 to support ongoing research in off-bottom oyster production in coastal areas, particularly those new to this method of production, including the Gulf of Mexico, and encourages NMFS to dedicate resources for further research in oyster genetics, disease, and economic modeling.

Oyster Reef Restoration.—The Committee continues to encourage NOAA to work with its State and non-Federal partners to consider supporting oyster shell recycling programs as part of the agency's competitive external funding opportunities for habitat restoration projects.

Cooperative Research.—At a time when fishing opportunities are constrained by uncertainty in stock assessment and increased access to healthy stocks depends on better data, the Committee believes that maintenance of ongoing monitoring programs and surveys is critical. The Committee encourages NMFS to continue to prioritize long-time series surveys that are conducted cooperatively with industry and States. Furthermore, NOAA is encouraged to continue funding to support cooperative fisheries datasets, particularly in regions with inadequate coverage or those that complement and augment data provided by existing NOAA surveys. In particular, priority should be established for time series data that: incorporate cooperative research with commercial fishermen; are developed by Sea Grant universities; or are produced in cooperation with State and local management agencies. In addition, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center is directed to work collaboratively with the fishing industry to update the Northeast Cooperative Research Strategic Plan, including: the identification of science priorities; a process for greater involvement of fishermen in data collection; and better communication of how the results of cooperative fisheries research are used.

Horseshoe Crab Survey.—The Committee is concerned that horseshoe crab surveys along the Atlantic Coast have not been adequately conducted in recent years due to lack of funding. Horseshoe crabs are critical to the ecology and economy of the Mid-Atlantic coastal region. They are a significant commercial bait fishery, provide a vital food source for migratory shore birds, and their unique blood (hemolymph) is used by the biomedical industry to test for bacterial contamination. The Committee encourages NMFS to use funding within the amount provided for expanding annual stock assessments to help restore this important survey for the Mid-Atlantic horseshoe crab population.

Seafood Reporting.—The United States leads the world in responsibly managed fisheries and aquaculture, and the Committee supports NOAA's activities to inform consumers about our Nation's sustainable fisheries through the agency's FishWatch program. However, the Committee is concerned that the exclusive use or recognition of third-party certifications for seafood sustainability by the Department could have unintended consequences for various domestic fisheries. The Committee acknowledges that some U.S. fisheries voluntarily utilize third-party seafood sustainability certification schemes, but believes it is not the Department's role to adopt such certification schemes when doing so could result in the Department arbitrarily influencing the U.S. domestic seafood market. The Committee believes support for third-party certifications is best presented in non-governmental forums. Therefore, the Committee directs the Department not to adopt, use, or promote any third-party certification scheme for seafood sustainability, but to instead continue providing consumers with independent and accountable information generated from within the Department.

Habitat Conservation and Restoration.—Within the amount provided, NOAA is encouraged to include funding for the multi-year Habitat Blueprint Focus Area partnership agreements developed under the Habitat Blueprint initiative. The Committee encourages NOAA to include a broader, ecosystem-based management philosophy; expand criteria to include recreational species, managed commercial species, and forage species; and prioritize proposals that engage local communities. NOAA shall also continue to emphasize the value of partnerships when evaluating grant applications, and shall seek to maximize external funding for public-private partnerships, including those that prioritize direct community involvement and stewardship of local projects that support a range of benefits to coastal watershed communities. Furthermore, NOAA is encouraged to explore the establishment of a dedicated research and infrastructure program tasked with tackling urban coastal sustainability issues in communities with recent historical changes in coastal and offshore ecosystems.

NOAA is encouraged to give priority to habitat restoration grants for river basins that are critical to the restoration of priority fisheries, especially restoration projects that support multistakeholder agreements, including settlements of litigation and conflict over water management, and particularly involving the settlement of tribal water rights. Furthermore, NOAA is encouraged to work with local communities and tribal governments so they can engage in collaborative management and restoration of fisheries.

NOAA OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

The Committee's recommendation provides \$436,042,000 for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research [OAR]. OAR programs provide the environmental research and technology needed to improve NOAA weather services, forecasts, climate predictions, and marine services. To accomplish these goals, OAR supports a network of scientists in its Federal research laboratories, universities, and joint institutes and partnership programs.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH OPERATIONS, RESEARCH AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Climate Research:	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	60,000
Regional Climate Data and Information	38,000
Climate Competitive Research	55,000
Total, Climate Research	153,000
Weather and Air Chemistry Research Programs:	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	70,000
U.S. Weather Research Program	8,000
Tornado Severe Storm Research/Phased Array Radar	13,158
Total, Weather and Air Chemistry Research	91,158
Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research:	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	32,000
National Sea Grant College Program	62,800
Marine Aquaculture Research	10,000
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring	41,596
Integrated Ocean Acidification	11,000
Ocean Exploration	22,344
Total, Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research	179,740
High Performance Computing Initiatives	12,144
GRAND TOTAL OAR	436,042

Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.—The Committee recognizes the significant roles Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes play in fulfilling the mission requirements of NOAA. In order to strengthen the state of science within NOAA's mission scope and create advantages in new scientific knowledge, NOAA must continue to support new technologies and improved services for coastal communities and the Nation. Therefore, the Committee provides \$2,000,000 above the budget request for research activities involving watershed impacts on marine ecosystems, remote sensing, and long-term monitoring of oil spill impacts on marine ecosystem health, including in the northern Gulf of Mexico. The Committee also encourages NOAA to consider how additional cooperative institutes could strengthen NOAA's ability to improve coastal sustainability and resilience and better prepare coastal communities to make smart land-use decisions.

Climate Research.—The Committee provides the requested level for supporting and expanding the National Integrated Drought Information System, including the Regional Drought Early Warning Information System.

Multi-Function Phased Array Radar.—The Committee provides OAR's full request for the Multi-Function Phased Array Radar [MPAR] and recognizes the importance of the program in developing and implementing the next generation weather and aircraft radar surveillance network. The Committee believes that consolidation of planning, research, and development strategies is necessary for the future success of the MPAR program and remains concerned with the uncertainty pertaining to cost sharing between the FAA and NOAA. The Committee directs NOAA to maintain its leadership role for MPAR research and development and to establish an interagency committee, including the FAA and other stakeholders, to formulate key requirements for a comprehensive development and acquisition strategy. Not later than 45 days after enactment of this act, NOAA shall provide a plan detailing how such key requirements would be achieved.

Vortex-Southeast [Vortex-SE].—The southeastern United States commonly experiences devastating tornadoes under variables and conditions that differ considerably from the Midwest where conditions for tornado research have historically been focused. Within funds provided for Weather and Air Chemistry Research Programs, up to \$5,000,000 is provided for OAR to collaborate with the National Science Foundation's Vortex-SE initiative to better understand how environmental factors that are characteristic of the southeast United States affect the formation, intensity, and storm path of tornadoes for this region.

Infrasound Weather Monitoring Research.—Within funds provided for the U.S. Weather Research Program, the Committee provides up to \$500,000 to support external research opportunities with academic institutions in infrasound monitoring methods of violent weather. The Committee believes that advanced infrasound signal processing methodologies and studies, deployed through a network of infrasound arrays to detect tornadoes and hurricanes, have the potential to improve forecast accuracy.

National Sea Grant College Program.—The Committee rejects NOAA's requested decrease to the National Sea Grant Program base and elimination of STEM-related education activities within the program. Within funds provided, NOAA is encouraged to leverage resources and pursue partnerships with Sea Grant universities and other Federal agencies to carry out aquatic animal health monitoring and research. This effort contributes to Sea Grant's and NOAA's broader mission of providing services to enhance coastal community resilience. Further, NOAA is directed to continue its partnership with academic programs that provide legal expertise related to the missions of the program and NOAA.

Fisheries-Related Research.—The Committee remains concerned about the negative impacts of the short recreational fishing season for red snapper in Gulf of Mexico. Additional data sources and assessment approaches would be beneficial and should be pursued by entities other than NOAA's regulating line office, NMFS. Therefore, the Committee provides up to \$5,000,000 within Sea Grant to

research and develop alternative approaches to data collection and analysis, including a tagging pilot program focused on the recreational fishing sector. Reward tagging studies are commonly used to estimate fishing mortality of exploited stocks, are based in sound peer-reviewed science, and are straight-forward and easily understood by the general public. Furthermore, the Committee believes the tagging data will provide valuable independent estimates of recreational fishing mortality for comparison with NMFS stock assessments.

Aquaculture Research.—The Committee provides \$10,000,000 for marine aquaculture research. NOAA is directed to support marine aquaculture research and development in partnership with universities. Similar research efforts have led to beneficial outcomes such as the development and commercialization of new technologies to meet the domestic demand for warm water marine seafood, including finfish, shrimp, and oysters.

Ocean Exploration.—The Committee directs NOAA to use a portion of the funding provided for Ocean Exploration to make competitive external awards to institutions that have partnered with OAR's Ocean Exploration program in the past. This includes those institutions with ocean-going assets, such as Autonomous Underwater Vehicles, to support new exploration missions, expeditions, and deep-sea research in the Gulf of Mexico. Furthermore, NOAA is encouraged to continue fundamental ocean exploration in which open source data are collected for the oceanographic community and private industries in real-time through telepresence technology. Another primary focus should be the continued exploration of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zones. As in the past, the program shall use ships and other ocean-going assets operated by academic and non-governmental institutions, provided that any data acquired are open-sourced.

NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The Committee's recommendation provides \$977,032,000 for the National Weather Service [NWS]. NWS programs provide timely and accurate meteorologic, hydrologic, and oceanographic warnings and forecasts to ensure the safety of the population, mitigate property losses, and improve the economic productivity of the Nation. NWS is also responsible for issuing operational climate forecasts for the United States. The Committee has made saving lives and livelihoods through accurate weather forecasting a priority.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES
 (In thousands of dollars)

	Committee recommendation
Observations	206,376
Central Processing	92,871
Analyze, Forecast, and Support	495,845
Dissemination	46,743
Science and Technology Integration	135,197
GRAND TOTAL NWS	977,032

Information Technology Officers.—While the Committee supports cost-savings and steps to improve efficiency, NWS's proposal to consolidate Information Technology Officer positions at the agency's regional weather forecast offices comes before a comprehensive review of NWS operations has been completed, and any move to consolidate these positions at this time would be premature. The Committee is pleased that NWS has awarded a contract for a comprehensive, third-party review of its long-term operations and workforce needs, and looks forward to the results of this assessment. If such a proposal is made in any future reprogramming or budget submission, NWS is directed to detail how such a consolidation would streamline system configurations, shore up existing cybersecurity vulnerabilities, contribute to the expedited rollout of the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System, and achieve cost savings while resulting in no degradation of service to NWS or its State, local, and Federal partners.

National Data Buoy Center [NDBC].—The Committee provides sufficient funding to maintain, at a minimum, NDBC operations at 80 percent data availability. The Committee encourages NOAA to provide adequate funding to support maintenance and service of the Tropical Atmosphere/Ocean Array [TAO] and Deep Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis [DART] array across the equatorial Pacific. In addition, not later than 180 days after enactment of this act, NOAA shall provide a report to the Committee detailing the resources necessary to properly maintain and operate the coastal weather buoy system in areas off Alaska and in the Arctic Ocean. The report shall include the identification of gaps in Arctic weather and sea ice observing networks in U.S. territories of the Arctic Ocean. The Committee directs NOAA to include a schedule to restore existing data buoy operability and its strategy

to minimize outages in the future as part of the agency's spending plan.

National Water Center.—The Committee provides no less than \$14,500,000 for operations and staffing of the newly opened National Water Center [NWC]. The NWC will serve as the first ever clearinghouse for research and operational forecasting of all water-related issues facing our Nation, including: severe floods, storm surge, drought, and water quality, among others. Given the importance of the NWC to better protect lives and property of our Nation's citizens, NOAA is directed to expedite staffing and operations at the Center to achieve full operating capability as soon as possible. The Committee directs NOAA to provide a report no less than 45 days after enactment of this act with a staffing plan that includes an update on commitments from partner agencies and a timeline for accomplishing operational readiness in the first quarter of fiscal year 2016.

National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program [NTHMP].—The Committee rejects NOAA's proposal to terminate funding for tsunami preparedness within the NTHMP, and instead instructs the Agency to maintain funding at the fiscal year 2015 level and to strengthen the NTHMP in accordance with the 2011 evaluation by the National Academy of Sciences.

Report on Accuracy of Weather and Water Forecasts for Alaska.—Not later than 270 days after enactment of this act, NWS shall report to the Committee on the accuracy of weather and water forecasts for Alaska and U.S. territories in the Arctic region. The report shall include a comparison of the accuracy of weather and water forecasts for Alaska and the U.S. Arctic with the accuracy of weather and water forecasts for the contiguous 48 States of the United States, the root cause for any disparity, and what resources would be required to reduce such disparity. In addition, the report shall describe current limitations in delivering forecasts and information to support safe marine transportation and operations in the Arctic Ocean.

COASTAL Act Implementation.—Within funding provided for Science and Technology Integration, the Committee provides no less than \$5,000,000 for the continued development and implementation of the COASTAL Act (Public Law 112-141), which was included in the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2012. The Committee supports NOAA's work to assist homeowners impacted by destructive winds and storm surges associated with hurricanes and super-storms. The Committee directs NOAA to continue to leverage existing Federal assets, expertise, and partnerships in carrying out COASTAL Act activities. Furthermore, NOAA is directed to provide the Committee updates every 6 months on progress made and challenges related to implementation as well as any proposed solutions.

National Mesonet Program.—The Committee provides \$16,000,000 for the continuation and expansion of the National Mesonet Program and is encouraged by the Administration's request to fund the program. Funds should be made available through a competitive weather data procurement that sustains coverage of areas currently included within the national mesonet, as well as an expansion of coverage in high risk areas. NOAA is also

encouraged to add new observations such as coastal observations, boundary layer data, and total lightning data. NOAA should require that awardees provide mesonet data in formats that can be integrated by NWS for use in forecasts and severe weather alerts. NOAA should also encourage efforts to demonstrate the validity of mesonet observation data in increasing severe weather warning times and to demonstrate the economic benefit of Mesonet observations for various key sectors, such as commercial aviation and electric grid management. Of the funds provided, up to \$500,000 may be used for Meteorological Assimilation Data Ingest System [MADIS] activities, including transitioning MADIS from research to operations and enabling the distribution of Mesonet data through the Advanced Weather Interaction Processing System [AWIPS]. Up to \$500,000 may be used for costs associated with the National Mesonet Program Office. The Committee views the national mesonet as an important component of any effort to effectively develop a “Weather-Ready Nation” and expects that future NOAA budget requests will continue to reflect it as a priority.

NOAA NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE

The Committee's recommendation provides \$189,086,000 for National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service [NESDIS] operations. NESDIS programs operate environmental polar-orbiting and geostationary satellites and collect and archive global environmental data and information for distribution to users in commerce, industry, agriculture, science and engineering, the general public, and Federal, State, and local agencies.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES
 (In thousands of dollars)

	Committee recommendation
Environmental Satellite Observing Systems:	
Office of Satellite and Product Operations	102,000
Product Development, Readiness & Application	26,000
Commercial Remote Sensing Licensing & Enforcement	1,000
Office of Space Commercialization	600
Group on Earth Observations [GEO]	500
Total, Environmental Satellite Observing Systems	130,100
National Environmental Information Office	58,986
GRAND TOTAL NESDIS	189,086

National Environmental Information Office.—The Committee recommends \$58,986,000 for the National Environmental Information Office [NEIO], which is a new office that consolidates several programs that were previously funded separately. While the Committee supports the updated budget structure for NESDIS, it is essential to ensure that key programs continue to receive adequate funding. Specifically, the Committee provides not less than the fiscal year 2015 enacted levels of \$6,000,000 for the Regional Climate Services, \$3,650,000 for Regional Climate Centers, and \$4,567,000 for Coastal Data Development. Within NEIO, the Committee encourages NOAA to fully support critical international partnerships, including the Global Climate Observing System.

NOAA-WIDE PROGRAM SUPPORT

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$460,285,000 for NOAA-wide program support. These programs provide for overall NOAA management, including staffing of the Under Secretary’s office and services to NOAA and DOC field offices through the regional Administrative Support Centers. These programs also support NOAA’s Education Office consistent with the recommendations of the Joint Ocean Commission. The facilities subactivity provides for repair and maintenance to existing facilities, facilities planning and design, and environmental compliance. The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations provides aircraft and marine data acquisition, repair, and maintenance of the existing fleet; planning of future modernization; and technical and management support for NOAA-wide activities through the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

PROGRAM SUPPORT OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Corporate Services:	
Under Secretary and Associate Offices Base	27,000
Facilities	23,000
NOAA Wide Corporate Services and Agency Management	115,000
DOC Accounting System	6,223
IT Security	8,300
DOC Working Capital Fund	43,000
Total, Corporate Services	222,523
NOAA Education Program	26,631
Marine and Aircraft Operations	211,131
GRAND TOTAL, PROGRAM SUPPORT	460,285

Corporate Services.—Within the increased funds provided for Corporate Services, NOAA is directed to focus on restoring the functionality of its Workforce Management Office and Acquisition and Grant Services.

Education.—Within the funds provided for NOAA’s Education Program, \$5,000,000 is for competitive educational grants, which includes continued support for Environmental Literacy Grants and for improving geographic literacy; \$14,431,000 is for the Educational Partnership Program with minority-serving institutions; and \$7,200,000 is for Bay-Watershed Education and Training regional programs, which was touted by the Department of Education as a model program for how Federal and State agencies should collaborate on STEM education. Within funding for competitive educational grants, NOAA is encouraged to support not-for-profit facilities that promote educational, career, and private-sector opportunities in the field of ocean sciences.

A full description of the Committee’s assessment and direction regarding the administration’s Co-STEM consolidation proposal is found in the Office of Science Technology and Policy portion of this

report. For NOAA's part, the Committee continues to encourage efforts to streamline STEM education programs across NOAA line offices that make sense and supports the internal consolidation of NOAA education programs. However, the Committee does not support the elimination of NOAA's Teacher at Sea program or the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program.

Outstanding Loan Balances.—The Committee encourages NOAA and its respective line offices to work with communities and businesses, on a case-by-case basis, to resolve outstanding balances in a manner that considers the borrower's current financial ability but remains fair to American taxpayers.

Management Fees.—The Committee is concerned by recent news reports suggesting that certain Federal grant and cooperative agreement recipients have used management fees inappropriately by spending federally awarded funds on, for example, lobbying, alcohol, and entertainment. NOAA is directed to ensure that all funding recipients understand and are in compliance with Office of Management and Budget guidance on appropriate uses of such funds.

Budget Justification Overhaul.—The Committee has included language directing NOAA to improve its Congressional Budget Submission for the past 5 years to no avail. The product remains difficult to use, and it is clear that there has been no concerted effort to make improvements. The amount and quality of information provided on programs and activities varies widely from one Line Office section to another with rigid adherence to an arbitrary format at the cost of common sense. Therefore, the Committee directs NOAA to undertake a thorough review and overhaul of its budget justification documents to ensure that the information provided to the Committee is comprehensive, succinct, and consistent. Not later than 90 days after enactment of this act, NOAA shall report to the Committee on the status of the justification review and overhaul so that the Committee may provide feedback.

Marine and Aviation Operations.—Any decisions related to laying up any vessels, grounding any aircraft, or decommissioning any capital asset are subject to the standard reprogramming procedures set forth in section 505 of this act. Any changes from the spending plan shall also be subject to section 505 of this act. NOAA shall continue to provide the Committee with a monthly operational status of the fleet and aircraft. NOAA is further directed to provide the Committee with updated long-term management and acquisition plans for the fleet and aircraft within 60 days of enactment of this act.

NOAA PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 2015	\$2,179,225,000
Budget estimate, 2016	2,498,679,000
House allowance	1,960,034,000
Committee recommendation	2,079,494,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$2,079,494,000 for NOAA's procurement, acquisition, and construction. The recommendation is \$99,731,000 below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$419,185,000 below the budget request.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

(In thousands of dollars)

	Committee recommendation
National Ocean Service:	
National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction	1,700
Marine Sanctuaries Construction/Acquisition	2,000
Total National Ocean Service—PAC	3,700
Ocean and Atmospheric Research:	
Research Super Computing	20,079
National Weather Service:	
Observations	16,720
Central Processing	64,261
Dissemination	45,684
WFO Construction	8,650
Total, National Weather Service—PAC	135,315
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Services:	
Geostationary Systems (GOES-R)	871,791
Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS)	808,966
Polar Follow-on	135,000
SIDAR	500
DSCOVR	3,200
Jason-3	7,458
COSMIC-2	10,100
Satellite Ground Services	50,000
System Architecture and Advanced Planning	3,929
Projects, Planning, and Analysis	25,228
Satellite CDA Facility	2,228
Total, NESDIS—PAC	1,918,400
Program Support:	
Construction	1,000
Vessel Equip. and Tech Refresh	11,700
New Vessel Construction	2,300
Total, Program Support—PAC	15,000
Unobligated balances from prior years	13,000
GRAND TOTAL, PAC	2,079,494

National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction.—The Committee remains concerned about the increased costs and lack of transparency associated with certain third-party green building

rating systems. The use of certain green building standards can arbitrarily discriminate against domestic building materials such as wood that could be locally sourced, thereby increasing costs to taxpayers without significant benefits in energy and water savings. The Committee again directs NOAA to use funding provided for National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction subject only to green building rating systems or standards that are voluntary consensus standards; have achieved American National Standard Institute [ANSI] Designation; or were developed by an ANSI Audited Designator, and take into consideration the environmental and economic benefits of building materials through lifecycle analysis. Not later than 90 days after enactment of this act, NOAA shall notify the Committee on any new, existing, or planned construction projects at NERRS sites that receive accreditation for energy savings from a third-party green building rating system.

Weather Satellites.—The Committee provides full funding for the continued procurement and acquisition of the Joint Polar Satellite System [JPSS] and the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-series [GOES-R], NOAA's flagship weather satellite programs. NOAA is directed to prioritize satellite programs directly related to weather forecasting and that result in the greatest reduction of risk to lives and property. Keeping JPSS and GOES-R programs on-budget and on-schedule is critical, as is maintaining their respective cost controls, particularly when NOAA's satellite missions continue to dominate the agency's annual budget requirements. The Committee reiterates its previous direction to NOAA to find savings from operating expenses and to reduce duplicative Government overhead shared with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA].

Polar Follow-On.—The Committee provides \$135,000,000 for the newly proposed Polar Follow-On mission. Ensuring a risk-averse and robust continuation of polar orbiting weather satellites is essential to avoid gaps in the data that is required for accurate weather forecasting. The Committee directs NOAA to have an Independent Cost Estimate [ICE] conducted for the Polar Follow-on program. Not later than 180 days following enactment of this act, NOAA shall provide detailed results from the ICE analysis to the Committee, including a comparison to the agency's internal estimate of the program's life-cycle cost.

COSMIC-2.—The Committee provides \$10,100,000 for the Constellation Observing System for Meteorology, Ionosphere, and Climate 2 [COSMIC-2] program, an increase of \$3,300,000 over the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, for the ground reception and processing of Global Navigation Satellite System Radio Occultation [GNSS RO] satellite data, which will augment current data used for global weather forecasts and studies. However, no funding is provided for the procurement of a second set of radio occultation [RO] sensors that NOAA proposes to launch into polar orbit in 2019. The Committee notes that the U.S. Air Force—NOAA's partner on COSMIC-2—has not committed to providing launch services for a polar constellation of RO sensors. Furthermore, NOAA has not yet identified any other launch provider for this proposed polar constellation. The Committee encourages NOAA to explore all op-

tions for obtaining polar GNSS RO data, including through commercial data purchases.

Space Weather Follow-On.—The Committee acknowledges the need to continue collecting space weather data in order to forecast and mitigate damage from solar geomagnetic storms. A coherent space weather architecture is necessary to predict and mitigate damage from threats to communications and electrical infrastructure. The Committee notes that the Administration’s request designates NOAA as the agency responsible for procuring and issuing alerts based on such data. While NASA’s heliophysics program has historically provided data in this domain, NASA’s program is designed for research rather than operational requirements and has limited ability to forecast space weather events. Therefore, not later than 120 days after enactment of this act, NOAA is directed to submit a report to the Committee detailing: space weather data needs for operational forecasting, various options for attaining such data, cost estimates for those options, and corresponding timelines. The report shall also analyze the potential impact of a space weather data gap after 2019.

NOAA Satellite Reporting.—The Committee directs NOAA to provide quarterly programmatic and procurement status reports of all satellites actively flying and under development unless any reprogramming, system failure, or other extraordinary circumstance warrants an immediate update. As part of the agency’s quarterly satellite briefing, NOAA shall include updates on preparations and enhancements necessary to accommodate an increased volume of satellite data and shall compare initial cost estimates to actual expenditures.

New Vessel Construction.—The Committee notes that despite repeated requests, the administration has failed to deliver a fleet recapitalization plan for NOAA showing a strategic timeline of when current ships should be retired and new vessel construction is needed. While the Committee supports an effort to modernize NOAA’s aging fleet, the Committee does not fully fund the agency’s fiscal year 2016 request to construct a new ocean-going survey vessel at this time. Instead, the Committee provides \$2,300,000 to: support the NOAA and U.S. Navy program management team, fund the work necessary for preliminary design contracts, and maintain the project management support that is needed for a construction award for an ocean-going survey vessel. The Committee urges the administration to provide the Congress with an updated fleet management plan immediately. Furthermore, NOAA is directed to work with the U.S. Navy to explore options for new vessel construction in future fiscal years, including a schedule for meeting the requirements of the forthcoming fleet management plan and investigating more flexible financing mechanisms that will allow NOAA to distribute the costs of vessel construction across multiple years.

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY FUND

Appropriations, 2015	\$65,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	58,000,000
House allowance	65,000,000
Committee recommendation	65,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$65,000,000 for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. The recommendation is the same as the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$7,000,000 above the budget estimate. Funds are for conservation and restoration of Pacific salmon populations. State and local recipients of this funding will provide matching contributions of at least 33 percent of Federal funds. In addition, funds will be available to tribes without a matching requirement.

FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

Appropriations, 2015	\$350,000
Budget estimate, 2016	350,000
House allowance	350,000
Committee recommendation	350,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$350,000 for the Fishermen's Contingency Fund. The recommendation is the same as the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and the President's request.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2015	-\$6,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	-6,000,000
House allowance	-6,000,000
Committee recommendation	-6,000,000

The Committee recommends that direct loans administered through this account for individual fishing quotas may not exceed \$24,000,000. Traditional direct loans may not exceed \$100,000,000, which is the same as the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and budget request.

OTHER

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$56,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	71,095,000
House allowance	50,000,000
Committee recommendation	56,000,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$56,000,000 for Departmental Management Salaries and Expenses. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$15,095,000 below the budget request.

Within Departmental Management, the Salaries and Expenses account provides funding for the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and support staff. Responsibilities involve policy development and implementation affecting U.S. and international activities, as well as establishing internal goals for operations of the Department.

Not less than 90 days after enactment of this act, the Department shall submit to the Committee a report detailing actions taken to cut costs and a detailed account of funds saved by such actions across the Department’s bureaus.

BusinessUSA.—The Committee provides funding up to the amount provided in fiscal year 2015 for BusinessUSA. However, the Committee clarifies that BusinessUSA is an online tool and shared inter-agency call center designed to facilitate information sharing, improve services to the public, and reduce interagency redundancies. Funds provided shall not be used to expand staffing or open any offices.

Business Application Solutions.—The Committee was supportive of previous funding requests for the Business Application Solutions [BAS] modernization project to consolidate and upgrade the systems used to manage finances, acquisitions, properties, and reporting requirements for the Department of Commerce. However, the Committee was disappointed to learn that two attempts to pilot a new system within the Department failed to move forward—particularly since the Department required an emergency reprogramming in fiscal year 2014 to allow NOAA to implement the new BAS system. Within 45 days of enactment of this act, the Committee directs the Department to provide a report detailing how previously appropriated funds for BAS were spent, including reprogrammed funds, in addition to specific steps the Department and the Office of Management and Budget are taking to expeditiously transition to a new system. Furthermore, the Department will keep the Committee apprised of any progress or setbacks as they occur until the new system is fully operational.

Small Business Innovation Research.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Small Business Innovation Research [SBIR] program and its previous success in facilitating commercial successes from federally funded research and development projects. The SBIR program encourages small domestic businesses to engage in Federal research and development and creates jobs in the smallest firms. The Committee therefore directs the Department of Com-

merce to place an increased focus on awarding SBIR grants to firms with fewer than 50 people.

Unobligated Balances.—The Committee remains concerned about the amount of unobligated funding within the Department of Commerce. The Department is directed to report all unobligated balances to the Committee on a quarterly basis following enactment of this act. Furthermore, the Department shall inform the Committee in writing of the specific steps taken to address the Inspector General’s report of June 2013 regarding poor oversight and accounting of unobligated balances.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2015	\$30,596,000
Budget estimate, 2016	35,190,000
House allowance	32,000,000
Committee recommendation	30,596,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$30,596,000 for the Office of Inspector General [OIG]. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$4,594,000 below the budget request.

In addition to funds provided under this heading, the Committee has recommended transfers to the OIG: \$2,000,000 from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; \$1,302,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and \$1,551,000 from the Census Bureau for oversight and audits of those activities. The Committee directs the OIG to continue strict oversight activities for satellite procurements, cybersecurity, and the decennial census.

Working Capital Fund Audits.—The Committee continues to direct the OIG to audit all of the working capital funds within the Department to evaluate the Department’s budgetary controls over all funds. The OIG shall assess: the controls in place to develop reimbursement formulas; the relationship of reimbursements to client services; the appropriateness of the level of fund balances; and compliance with appropriations law and direction. As part of this assessment, the Inspector General shall pay particular attention to the increasing amounts of funding needed to support the Department’s Office of General Counsel, including the justification and metrics for how such funding is being levied against each agency and, reciprocally, how the agencies account for the services they receive from the Office of General Counsel.

Audits and Investigations.—The OIG serves a critical oversight role at the Department. The Committee believes that robust investigations and audits are essential to routing out waste, fraud and abuse, but that limiting inquiries only to individuals in the Department does not necessarily lead to comprehensive findings and recommendations. The Committee directs the OIG to modify its policies and procedures to ensure that investigations or reports include interviews with all parties to the project or program in question, including, but not limited to, contractors responsible for projects under review. The Committee cautions the OIG against issuing preliminary findings prior to interviewing a majority of the entities involved with the program or project under investigation, unless the OIG believes the findings are time sensitive or additional interviews are immaterial.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Section 101 makes Commerce Department funds available for advanced payments only upon certification of officials designated by the Secretary that such payments are considered to be in the public interest.

Section 102 makes appropriations for salaries and expenses available for the hire of passenger motor vehicles, and for services, uniforms, and allowances as authorized by law.

Section 103 provides the authority to transfer funds between Department of Commerce accounts. The provision makes transfers subject to the Committee's standard reprogramming procedures.

Section 104 extends congressional notification requirements for the NOAA satellite programs.

Section 105 provides authority for the Secretary of Commerce to furnish certain services within the Herbert C. Hoover Building.

Section 106 clarifies that grant recipients under the Department of Commerce may continue to deter child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over their networks.

Section 107 provides NOAA the authority to share resources with entities outside the agency.

Section 108 specifies that none of the funds made available by this act, or any other appropriations act, can be used by the Department of Commerce to enforce or carry out activities under the Foreign Trade Zone regulation for uniform treatment (15 CFR 400.43).

Section 109 specifies that no funds made available by this act, or any other appropriations act, may be used by the Secretary of Commerce to manage fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico, unless such management activities are in accordance with the State seaward boundaries set by this act for the purposes of fisheries management in the Gulf of Mexico.

Section 110 requires that, before charging for congressional reports, the National Technical Information Service [NTIS] advise the public of free ways to receive or access these reports. For those reports that cannot be found free of charge or when a customer requires a mailed, hard copy, NTIS may only charge a de minimus copying and mailing fee. The Committee is concerned about outrageous fees the National Technical Information Service charges the public for hard copies of congressional reports and documents available for free online.

Section 111 allows NOAA to be reimbursed by Federal and non-Federal entities for performing certain activities.

The Committee remains concerned that agreements for offsetting collections provided for under this section could result in a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest, for the Department. The Department is directed to exercise caution and consider any unintended consequences that could result from such agreements, including, but not limited to, augmentation of appropriations, initiation of new programs not authorized by this act or any other act of Congress, and liabilities extending beyond the period of any such agreement. The Department shall provide to the Committee monthly updates on all offsetting fee collections, including each entity participating in the agreement, as well as the terms

of and specific activities funded by the agreement. Additionally, estimates of anticipated fee collections shall be included in the Department's annual spend plans. To further ensure the Committee maintains sufficient oversight for activities carried out under this section, language is included specifying that any offsetting collection would require the consent of each party subject to the agreement and all offsetting collections shall be subject to procedures set forth by section 505 of this act.

Section 112 allows the Secretary of Commerce to waive the bond requirement for research vessel repair and construction contracts that would align Commerce's authorities with those of other Federal agencies and address difficulties NOAA has experienced in obtaining competitive bids for ship repairs.

Prior to exercising waiver authority under section 112 of this act, the Secretary of Commerce shall promulgate regulations specifying criteria under which waiver authority may be used, including the types of contracts eligible for consideration, surety alternatives, and acceptable risk profiles in order to protect the taxpayer and ensure that NOAA maximizes cost-savings. The Department is directed to notify the Committee not less than 15 days prior to any waiver issued under this section. In addition, the Department shall, not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this act, prepare a report including the actual costs of repairing, rehabilitating, and replacing vessels in fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and annually thereafter, including an indication of those vessels for which NOAA waived the Miller Act.

Section 113 provides authority for the programs of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census to enter into cooperative agreements in order to assist in improving statistical methodology and research.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Committee recommends a total of \$27,827,770,000 for the Department of Justice [DOJ]. The recommendation is \$797,612,000 above the fiscal year 2015 funding level and \$1,412,710,000 below the budget request. The Committee's recommendation emphasizes key priorities regarding funding for the Department's critical ongoing missions and activities to protect the safety, security, and rights of our citizens.

Human Trafficking.—The combat against human and sex trafficking, including the apprehension of perpetrators who use online classified Web sites to facilitate the sexual exploitation of children, crosses many jurisdictions within the Department. The Committee's recommendation provides no less than the fiscal year 2015 enacted level for the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit [HTPU] in the Civil Rights Division to fight human trafficking and slavery. The Committee encourages the HTPU and the Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams to continue working with victim service providers and non-governmental organizations to ensure victim needs are prioritized as part of the overall strategy to combat human trafficking, forced labor, and slavery in the United States.

The HTPU is directed to report to the Committee not later than 120 days following enactment of this act on: (1) the total number of human trafficking cases it pursued within the last 3 years for prosecution, disaggregated by type of trafficking, and including instances in which an online classified Web site is determined to be the conduit for exploiting trafficked persons, especially minors, and the actions being taken to shut down these sites; (2) the number of Assistant U.S. Attorneys who received training on human trafficking within the last 3 years; and (3) the number of Assistant U.S. Attorneys who received training on restitution for human trafficking victims within the last 3 years.

The Committee directs the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys [EOUSA], in consultation with the U.S. Attorneys, to designate a point of contact in each U.S. Attorney's office who shall serve as the coordinator for all activities within that office concerning human trafficking and slavery matters covered by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Designating a point of contact improves communication and coordination within each jurisdiction, including with victim service organizations, in order to better serve the victims of human trafficking, forced labor, and slavery. The Committee also directs the EOUSA, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, to develop a process to enable survivors with T-visas to obtain an expedited letter of support from the Department of Justice when their criminal case is closed.

The FBI also plays a critical role in investigating criminal organizations trafficking individuals within the United States. The Committee encourages the Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] to work with appropriate non-governmental organizations and victim service providers to improve the training of FBI agents in the field to assist in the identification of human trafficking victims and pro-

vide appropriate referrals to victim service organizations. The Committee also encourages the FBI to seek: (1) Continued Presence [CP] for potential trafficking victims as soon as possible to assist in the prosecution of traffickers and aid in victim recovery, and (2) assistance for local and State law enforcement to understand the requirements of CP and promptly respond to any State or local requests by law enforcement for CP for potential victims of human trafficking.

Intellectual Property Rights [IPR] Enforcement.—The Committee expects IPR enforcement to remain a priority for both the Criminal Division [CRM] and FBI. The international theft of intellectual property is responsible for the loss of hundreds of billions of dollars annually and reduces the incentive for innovation and creativity within the U.S. economy. The Committee directs the CRM and FBI to maintain dedicated positions to combat intellectual property crimes and fund IPR efforts at no less than fiscal year 2015 enacted levels. In addition, the FBI shall provide quarterly updates to the Committee detailing the activities of its dedicated agents investigating IPR cases.

Heroin Working Group.—The problem of heroin use and overdoses in the United States shows no signs of abating anytime soon. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration's May 2015 National Heroin Threat Assessment, heroin seizures in the United States rose 81 percent from 2010 to 2014, from 6,032 pounds to 11,054 pounds, with the average size of a heroin seizure more than doubling, from 1.8 pounds to 3.8 pounds during this same time period.

As part of the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 113-235, the Committee directed the Department of Justice to convene a multi-agency working group to develop a coordinated response to help our communities grappling with the growing scourge of heroin. While the Committee was disappointed to learn that this group had yet to convene prior to the subcommittee's hearing on the Department's law enforcement agencies' budgets on March 12, 2015, it was pleased to hear that this working group held a kick-off meeting on April 28, 2015. The Committee directs the Department to submit the complete and final recommendations of the multi-disciplinary working group not later than 45 days after enactment of this act.

Bakken Oil Region.—The Committee directs the Department of Justice to report within 90 days of enactment of this act on the Department's continued presence and ongoing resource requirements in the Bakken oil region, including both law enforcement and prosecutorial components. The Department shall also include an updated analysis of crime trends in the region in its report.

Sole Sourcing of Equipment and Scientific Instruments.—The Committee urges the Department to employ full and open competition in any effort to procure or upgrade law enforcement equipment to include scientific instruments and specialized communication equipment, including radios. Requests for proposals should not include technical specifications or requirements for proprietary designs or features that restrict competition and may not meet the latest technological advances available. The Committee believes that multiple vendors ensure the best environment for competition

that will ultimately best serve the needs of the Department's law enforcement agencies.

Cybersecurity.—Over the past year, the United States has witnessed serious data breaches in the private sector, including cyber intrusions at some of the Nation's largest companies and financial institutions. These breaches have exposed personal data and financial information of millions of Americans, leaving individuals and businesses alike feeling vulnerable and violated. Other attacks, like the recent effort in April 2015 by Russia to hack White House emails, pose serious national security threats. The Department has several offices with cybersecurity responsibilities, including those within the FBI, the National Security Division, the Criminal Division, and U.S. Attorneys Offices [USAO]. At a minimum, the Committee directs the Department to maintain its cybersecurity posture at no less than the fiscal year 2015 level to defend and respond to current and emerging attacks that threaten its own infrastructure and activities. In other cases, such as with the USAO and the FBI, the Committee has specific direction to increase cyber-related investigations and to prosecute more cybercrimes. Throughout this title, the Committee's recommendation for cybersecurity-related activities for the department totals \$754,881,000 for fiscal year 2016, which is an increase of \$72,155,000, or 11 percent, above the fiscal year 2015 level.

Strengthening Police-Community Relations.—Recent events in communities across the Nation have illustrated the important need for lasting collaborative relationships between local police and the public. To assist with strengthening this relationship, the Committee has dedicated resources totaling \$98,254,370 across a variety of program areas. Strong partnerships between the police and the communities they protect reduce crime, ensure that citizens' civil rights are protected, and improve officer safety.

The Committee has provided set-asides within the Byrne-JAG program of \$20,000,000 for body-worn cameras for police officers with the expectation that funding will go to jurisdictions whose officers have been trained in using this technology and have privacy and data retention policies already in place; \$5,000,000 within the Smart Policing program to study the effectiveness of body cameras; and \$15,000,000 for Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation, a community-oriented program that uses research and collaboration to reduce crime and restore vitality in troubled neighborhoods. A funding level of \$22,000,000 is provided for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, a data-driven approach to improving public safety in communities.

Within the COPS Office, the Committee is setting aside \$10,000,000 for the continuation of the Collaborative Reform Model, which assists local law enforcement agencies to identify problems and develop solutions to some of the most critical issues facing law enforcement today, such as use of force, fair and impartial policing, and improved accountability.

Another \$10,000,000 is set aside for Community Policing Development [CPD] within the COPS Office. CPD funds are used to advance community policing in law enforcement agencies through training and technical assistance, demonstration projects, development of innovative policing strategies, and best practices that are

national in scope. The Committee further directs that CPD provide up to \$5,000,000 within this program for diversity and inclusion training to organizations with experience in training law enforcement personnel. The goal of this training is to improve community policing and create partnerships between police officers and the citizens they protect.

The Committee is providing funding for departmental agencies that assist with training State and local law enforcement officers and help with mediating conflicts in communities. The Community Relations Service is fully funded by the Committee at their request level of \$14,446,000, which will allow for the hiring of 10 Conciliation Specialists to deploy to areas across the United States to mediate, train and facilitate discussion between police departments and communities where tensions exist. The Committee is fully funding the FBI's request of \$1,808,370 for the National Academy, a professional development course for State, local and international law enforcement leaders that serves to improve the administration of justice and raise law enforcement standards, knowledge, and cooperation worldwide. This funding will allow approximately 900 police officers to attend the National Academy to receive world class training on leadership and specific courses on use of force and factors which lead to racial bias.

Federal Water Usage Violations.—The Committee is aware that the Department of Justice receives notifications from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] regarding violations of Federal water contracts involving the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa [ACT] river basin. How the Department responds to these notifications and subsequently enforces the law remains unclear. The Committee directs the Department to provide a report within 60 days of enactment of this act that includes: an audit of the contract violation notifications DOJ has received from USACE regarding the ACT river basin for the past 10 years; a record of how DOJ has handled these notifications in the past; and a comprehensive plan for how DOJ intends to enforce the law and respond to these contract violations now and in the future.

Gang Violence.—The Committee recognizes the challenges posed by the increasing number of gang members and the violent crimes they commit in urban, suburban, and rural communities. The Committee understands that combating these gangs, continued and increased cooperation between Federal, State, and local law enforcement is required as well as support, coordination, and expertise from the Federal level. The Committee acknowledges the work currently being undertaken to fight gangs by the FBI Violent Safe Streets Task Forces, the Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA], the National Gang Targeting, Enforcement and Coordination Center [GangTECC], the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives [ATF], the U.S. Marshals Service [USMS], Bureau of Prisons [BOP], the U.S. Attorneys Offices [USAO], and other Federal agencies. The Committee urges these agencies to intensify current efforts, while enhancing coordination across the Federal Government and with State and local law enforcement in order to maximize the impact of limited personnel resources. The Committee's recommendation includes \$5,000,000 for the USMS for gang enforcement efforts within the Regional Fugitive Task Forces and

\$8,500,000 for the Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Program within the Office of Justice Programs aimed at reducing gang violence.

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty Reform.—The Committee maintains support for the Department's reform to the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty [MLAT] process. The Department is directed to submit a detailed spending plan to the Committee including personnel hires and technology upgrades to improve the MLAT process within 45 days of enactment of this act.

Scientific Working Group on Digital Evidence.—The Committee maintains its direction that the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST] and the Department of Justice continue to collaborate on a Scientific Working Group [SWG] for digital evidence under the new NIST-run Organization for Scientific Area Committees. The Committee expects that members and expertise developed by the Justice-led digital evidence SWG continue to transition to the NIST-supported SWG and that NIST will continue to operate all SWGs in a consensus-driven manner that places value on input from a wide range of practitioners.

Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act.—The Committee fully supports the goals of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-344) to investigate and prosecute previously unresolved civil rights era “cold case” murders suspected of having been racially motivated, through a partnership among the Civil Rights Division [CRT], the FBI, and the Community Relations Service [CRS], as well as with State and local grant resources. To continue supporting Emmett Till activities, the Committee urges the Department to: use such sums as may be necessary from within the budget base for the CRT's Cold Case Initiative; for the FBI to pursue Emmett Till Act cold cases; and for the CRS to partner with law enforcement agencies and communities to help resolve conflicts resulting from the investigation of unsolved civil rights era cases. Additionally, the Committee directs the National Institute of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Office for Victims of Crime to continue providing grants for cold case DNA investigations to aid State and local law enforcement agencies in their investigation and prosecution of unsolved civil rights cold cases.

Working Capital Fund [WCF].—The Committee expects the Department to execute funding to the fullest extent possible without any carryover balances. The Committee directs DOJ to continue to use the WCF only as a repository for reimbursable funds from components and to obligate and execute that funding expeditiously. The DOJ shall provide a report to the Committee within 45 days after enactment of this act regarding balances in the WCF including carryover funds, the intended uses of those funds, and a spending plan. The spending plan shall include collections and obligations for both reimbursable and appropriated funding. The Department is further directed to provide quarterly updates on the WCF to the Committee.

Spending Plan.—In compliance with section 534 of this act, the Committee directs the Department of Justice to submit a spending plan, signed by the Attorney General, within 45 days of enactment of this act.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$111,500,000
Budget estimate, 2016	119,437,000
House allowance	95,540,000
Committee recommendation	109,000,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$109,000,000 for General Administration salaries and expenses. The recommendation is \$2,500,000 below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$10,437,000 below the budget request.

The General Administration account provides funding for senior policy officials responsible for departmental management and policy development. The specific offices funded by this account include: the immediate Office of the Attorney General; the immediate Office of the Deputy Attorney General; the immediate Office of the Associate Attorney General; Office of Legal Policy; Office of Public Affairs; Office of Legislative Affairs; Office of Professional Responsibility; Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison; and the Justice Management Division.

Wildlife Trafficking.—The Committee notes the increase in the illegal trade in rhinoceros horns, elephant ivory, and illegally harvested timber, along with the large sums of money that these products command on the black market. There are indisputable linkages between these activities and the financing of armed insurgencies and groups that threaten the stability and development of African countries and pose a threat to U.S. security interests. The Committee directs the Attorney General to report on the specific steps being taken by the Department to further address wildlife trafficking and the illegal natural resources trade, as specifically outlined in Senate Report 113–181.

Office of Tribal Justice [OTJ] and Coordination on Tribal Land.—The Committee supports the OTJ’s request to add one attorney position to help meet the responsibilities of assisting with issues in Indian Country. As the Department of Justice and Bureau of Indian Affairs [BIA] are responsible for supporting the tribal justice system, including tribal detention centers, the Committee strongly encourages OTJ to continue to focus on efforts with BIA to ensure that tribes are receiving sufficient resources to operate detention centers.

Office of Legislative Affairs.—While the Committee primarily communicates with the Department through the Justice Management Division, it reserves the right to call upon any individual or organization within its jurisdiction for requests for information, including the Department’s Office of Legislative Affairs [OLA]. The Committee notes that recent responses from OLA have been neither helpful nor timely, with some answers left completely void of any meaningful information whatsoever. The Committee has received similar feedback from other Senate offices about OLA’s performance, leading the Committee to question the efficacy of fully funding OLA’s budget. The Committee reminds DOJ that requests from the Congress to OLA should be treated as a priority for the Department and responded to both courteously and expeditiously.

JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY

Appropriations, 2015	\$25,842,000
Budget estimate, 2016	37,440,000
House allowance	25,842,000
Committee recommendation	25,842,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$25,842,000 for Justice Information Sharing Technology [JIST]. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$11,598,000 below the budget request.

Cybersecurity.—The Committee's recommendation provides no less than \$5,030,000 for cybersecurity so DOJ may continue to proactively defend against and respond to current and emerging cybersecurity threats and attacks against DOJ's network infrastructure.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW AND APPEALS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2015	\$351,072,000
Budget estimate, 2016	488,381,000
House allowance	426,791,000
Committee recommendation	411,072,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$411,072,000 for Administrative Review and Appeals, of which \$4,000,000 is a transfer from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services [USCIS] Immigration Examiners Fee Account. The recommendation is \$60,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$77,309,000 below the budget request.

This account funds the Executive Office for Immigration Review [EOIR], including the Board of Immigration Appeals [BIA], immigration judges, and administrative law judges who decide through administrative hearings whether to admit or exclude aliens seeking to enter the country, and whether to deport or adjust the status of aliens whose status has been challenged. This account also funds the Office of the Pardon Attorney, which receives, investigates, and considers petitions for all forms of executive clemency.

EOIR represents the Department's frontline presence with respect to the application of immigration law. EOIR receives cases directly from Department of Homeland Security [DHS] enforcement personnel, in which the Federal Government is seeking the removal of immigrants who are in the United States without lawful status or who have committed some act, typically a criminal offense, that renders them removable. EOIR's immigration court caseload continues to increase as a result of heightened border enforcement efforts.

The number of cases pending adjudication rose from approximately 229,000 at the end of fiscal year 2009 to 418,861 at the end of fiscal year 2014. By the beginning of the third quarter of fiscal year 2015, the number of cases pending adjudication had risen to over 440,000. Additionally, the BIA receives more than 30,000 appeals per year, an extremely large volume for an appellate court. Court dockets are scheduled unacceptably far into the future, with most courts backlogged by at least 1 to 2 years, and some up to 5 years. Such extensive delays result in the lengthy postponement of warranted deportations of those who have no claim for relief. At the same time, legitimate asylum seekers face significant challenges while waiting for their cases to be heard.

Given these increasing caseload demands, the Committee's recommendation includes a programmatic increase of \$60,000,000 to add 55 new Immigration Judge Teams. This increase will allow EOIR to better coordinate with DHS enforcement efforts and to help adjudicate the rapidly growing caseload. While the need to expand our immigration courts is clear, the Committee remains seriously concerned with operational inefficiencies and management deficiencies that have yet to fully be addressed by EOIR's headquarters, especially when considering the latency of hiring new judge teams. The Committee directs EOIR to provide the Committee with monthly reports on the status of the on-going judge hiring process that shall include: the current total number of immi-

gration judges broken out by standard full-time judges, judges recalled from retirement, non-judges serving in temporary judge roles and judges in other employment statuses; the target number of new judge hires based on current available appropriations; the number of new judges currently being hired broken out by individuals being processed for employment, participating in training, and undergoing any other pre-employment activities; the target dates for when new judges will start working full-time; and the current running average time it takes to hire a new immigration judge. The Committee also is disappointed in EOIR's ability to efficiently use its technology and staffing resources and expects EOIR to better utilize limited funding to address the voluminous pending caseload.

Training for Immigration Judges.—The Committee directs that EOIR's training for immigration judges should address how to adjudicate children's cases, including forms of relief for children, how to elicit information from children, the impact of trauma on children, and other relevant child development issues.

Legal Orientation Program [LOP].—The Committee’s recommendation maintains the fiscal year 2015 base funding for LOP, pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–457), for custodians of unaccompanied, undocumented children to address the custodian’s responsibility for the child’s appearance at all immigration proceedings, and to protect the child from mistreatment, exploitation, and trafficking.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2015	\$88,577,000
Budget estimate, 2016	93,709,000
House allowance	93,709,000
Committee recommendation	89,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$89,000,000 for the Office of Inspector General [OIG]. The recommendation is \$423,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$4,709,000 below the budget request.

This account finances the activities of the OIG, including audits, inspections, investigations, and other reviews of programs and operations of the Department of Justice to promote efficiency and effectiveness, and to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse, as well as violations of ethical standards arising from the conduct of Department employees in their numerous and diverse activities.

Right to Access.—The Committee retains bill language providing the Inspector General access to documents and other materials at the Department of Justice, which may be necessary in the normal conduct of the Inspector General's duties. The Committee asks the Inspector General to report on the effectiveness of this provision within 180 days of enactment of this act.

Oversight of Crime Victims Fund Grants.—Section 510 of this act provides \$10,000,000 for the OIG to continue its expanded audit functions of the Crime Victims Fund [CVF]. Recent adjustments to the CVF have dramatically increased allowable spending out of the fund by 349 percent from fiscal years 2014 to 2016. The Committee is concerned that the Department has not done enough to proportionately adjust its grant monitoring activities to reflect these significant CVF changes in order to avoid waste, fraud and abuse. The Committee's direction in fiscal year 2016 to use a portion of the CVF funding on existing victim programs, which have current accountability metrics, will help with the Department's grant oversight. However, the Committee directs the OIG to continue to increase its audit of CVF awards and assist the Department to ensure these important funds are used appropriately and effectively.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$13,308,000
Budget estimate, 2016	13,547,000
House allowance	13,308,000
Committee recommendation	13,308,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$13,308,000 for the United States Parole Commission. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$239,000 below the budget request.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 2015	\$885,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	1,037,386,000
House allowance	882,000,000
Committee recommendation	885,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$885,000,000 for General Legal Activities salaries and expenses. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$152,386,000 below the budget request.

This appropriation funds the establishment of litigation policy, conduct of litigation, and various other legal responsibilities through the Office of the Solicitor General, the Tax Division, the Criminal Division [CRM], the Civil Division [CIV], the Environmental and Natural Resources Division, the Civil Rights Division [CRT], the Office of Legal Counsel, and INTERPOL Washington.

INTERPOL Washington.—From within funds provided for General Legal Activities, the Committee directs the Department to provide \$32,000,000 for INTERPOL Washington, equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level. The Committee has provided no-year authority in the amount of \$685,000 to ensure sufficient resources are available for INTERPOL Washington's dues payments and help the Department better manage fluctuations in currency exchange rates. INTERPOL Washington's command center [IOCC] operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, responding to requests for international criminal investigative and humanitarian assistance from more than 18,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies and their counterparts in 189 other INTERPOL-member countries. INTERPOL Washington's responsibility to respond to increasing foreign and domestic requests places additional operational demands on the resources of this organization.

Civil Rights.—The Committee provides a total of \$158,000,000 to the CRT, equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, to continue its efforts to enforce civil rights laws; expand its capacity to prosecute and provide litigation support for human trafficking, hate crimes, and unsolved civil rights era crimes; carry out its responsibilities associated with the civil rights of institutionalized persons and the access rights of the disabled; investigate and prosecute police misconduct; and enhance the enforcement of fair housing and fair lending laws.

Civil Rights Violations in State and Local Prisons and Jails.—The Committee continues to be concerned by reports of civil rights violations in State and local prisons and jails, and directs the CRT to increase efforts to investigate and address violations of the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act in State and local prisons and jails. The Committee directs the CRT to use such sums as necessary from amounts appropriated in fiscal year 2016 to address such issues in State and local prisons and jails.

Human Rights Crimes.—The Committee remains concerned by the large number of suspected human rights violators from foreign countries who have found safe haven in the United States and directs the CRM to continue its efforts to investigate and prosecute serious human rights crimes, including genocide, torture, use or re-

recruitment of child soldiers, and war crimes. For this purpose, the Committee's recommendation supports continued funding for the CRM to investigate and prosecute individuals who violate Federal laws regarding serious human rights abuses.

International Training.—The Committee remains concerned about the instability of budget and staffing challenges faced by the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training [OPDAT] and International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program [ICITAP] programs under the current funding structure provided via the Department of State. While the Committee encourages the Departments of Justice and State to maintain open communications regarding programmatic and resource needs to truly execute their missions, OPDAT and ICITAP should ideally receive a transfer of funds from State within 90 days of enactment of this act. Should an immediate source of funding be needed ahead of a completed transfer of funds, the Committee suggests that the Department of Justice notify the Committee as soon as possible.

THE NATIONAL CHILDHOOD VACCINE INJURY ACT

Appropriations, 2015	\$7,833,000
Budget estimate, 2016	9,358,000
House allowance	8,000,000
Committee recommendation	9,358,000

The Committee's recommendation provides a reimbursement of \$9,358,000 for legal costs. The recommendation is \$1,525,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and is equal to the budget request.

This account covers the Department's expenses associated with litigating cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-660).

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, ANTITRUST DIVISION

Appropriations, 2015	\$162,246,000
Budget estimate, 2016	164,977,000
House allowance	162,246,000
Committee recommendation	162,246,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$162,246,000 for the Antitrust Division. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$2,731,000 below the budget request. This appropriation is offset by \$124,000,000 in pre-merger filing fee collections, resulting in a direct appropriation of \$38,246,000.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$1,960,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	2,032,216,000
House allowance	1,995,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,973,000,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$1,973,000,000 for the Executive Office for United States Attorneys [EOUSA] and the 94 U.S. Attorneys [USAs] offices. The recommendation is \$13,000,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$59,216,000 below the budget request.

As in past years, the Committee directs the USAs to focus their efforts on those crimes where the unique resources, expertise, or jurisdiction of the Federal Government can be most effective.

Adam Walsh Act Implementation.—The Committee expects the EOUSA to continue to focus on investigations and prosecutions related to the sexual exploitation of children, as authorized by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248), and as part of Project Safe Childhood. The recommendation fully funds the budget request of \$44,339,000 for this purpose in fiscal year 2016.

Combating Financial and Mortgage Fraud.—The Committee’s recommendation fully funds the request of \$346,579,000, to hold accountable criminals who perpetrate financial and mortgage fraud, deter future perpetrators of fraud, and recover monies stolen from U.S. taxpayers. The USAs conduct criminal investigations and prosecutions of mortgage and financial fraud, predatory lending, financial fraud, and market manipulation matters.

Civil Rights Prosecutions.—The Committee’s recommendation provides the requested amount of \$35,982,000 for increased civil rights enforcement that will advance both criminal and civil litigations. The new positions associated with this funding are expected to augment current activities in the Civil Rights Division, which would expand the capacity to pursue more sex and labor trafficking cases.

Cybercrime.—As national and international cyber threats become increasingly sophisticated, our Federal prosecutors must become better versed in digital forensic evidence. The Committee’s recommendation supports the requested amount of \$55,110,000 for cybercrime activities, which will increase the investigation and prosecution of cyberattacks and cyber intrusions, and provide the training on cybercrime and digital evidence needed for USAs to be able to analyze and present digital evidence across all types of criminal cases.

National Advocacy Center.—While the Committee remains disappointed that a change in circumstances resulted in Project Palmetto not becoming a reality as envisioned, it commends the two parties for coming to a mutually amicable resolution. The Committee is also aware of the need to address outstanding administrative adjustment issues related to Palmetto and encourages the parties to quickly conclude those discussions.

UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND

Appropriations, 2015	\$225,908,000
Budget estimate, 2016	228,107,000
House allowance	225,908,000
Committee recommendation	225,908,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$225,908,000 for the U.S. Trustee System Fund. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$2,199,000 below the budget request. The appropriation is offset by \$162,000,000 in fee collections.

The U.S. Trustee Program, authorized by 28 U.S.C. 581 et seq., is the component of the Department with responsibility for protecting the integrity of the bankruptcy system by overseeing case administration and litigation to enforce the bankruptcy laws. In fiscal year 2016, the U.S. Trustee Program will participate in an estimated 750,000 business and consumer bankruptcy case filings.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

Appropriations, 2015	\$2,326,000
Budget estimate, 2016	2,374,000
House allowance	2,326,000
Committee recommendation	2,374,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$2,374,000 for the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission. The recommendation is \$48,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission settles claims of American citizens arising from nationalization, expropriation, or other takings of their properties and interests by foreign governments.

FEEES AND EXPENSES OF WITNESSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$270,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	270,000,000
House allowance	270,000,000
Committee recommendation	270,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$270,000,000 for fees and expenses of witnesses. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and the budget request.

This appropriation, which is considered mandatory for scorekeeping purposes, provides for fees and expenses of witnesses who appear on behalf of the Government in cases in which the United States is a party, including fact and expert witnesses. These funds are also used for mental competency examinations, and witness and informant protection. The Committee includes bill language prohibiting the Department from transferring funds out of this account.

The Committee expects that no funds will be expended for expert witness services, including the payment of fees and expenses of expert witnesses, from any other DOJ accounts but Fees and Expenses of Witnesses.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

Appropriations, 2015	\$12,250,000
Budget estimate, 2016	14,446,000
House Allowance	13,000,000
Committee recommendation	14,446,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$14,446,000 for the Community Relations Service [CRS]. The recommendation is \$2,196,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The Community Relations Service, established by title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, provides assistance to communities and persons in the prevention and resolution of disagreements arising from discriminatory practices.

Hate Crimes Prevention.—Within the funds provided, the Committee provides \$2,500,000 to handle the workload and responsibilities stemming from passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act [HCPA] (Public Law 111-84). The HCPA expanded the CRS's mandate, requiring that it help communities prevent and respond to violent hate crimes committed on the basis of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability, in addition to race, color, and national origin. This funding will maximize the CRS crisis response nationwide and enable CRS to fulfill both its original mandate and expanded mandate under the HCPA.

ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND

Appropriations, 2015	\$20,514,000
Budget estimate, 2016	20,514,000
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	20,514,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$20,514,000 for the Assets Forfeiture Fund [AFF]. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The AFF provides funds for qualifying expenses of Federal law enforcement agencies and their State or local partners. Funds for these activities are provided from receipts deposited into the AFF resulting from the seizure and liquidation of assets. Expenses related to the management and disposal of assets are also provided from the AFF by a permanent, indefinite appropriation.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

Appropriations, 2015	¹ \$2,800,107,000
Budget estimate, 2016	2,699,995,000
House Allowance	2,289,081,000
Committee recommendation	2,659,214,000

¹In addition to \$1,700,107,000 in direct appropriations, this account was provided \$1,100,000,000 from the Department's Assets Forfeiture Fund for a total operating amount of \$2,800,107,000.

The Committee's recommendation provides a total of \$2,659,214,000 for the United States Marshals Service [USMS]. The recommendation is \$140,893,000 below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level including offsetting funds from other accounts, and is \$40,781,000 below the budget request.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$1,195,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	1,230,581,000
House allowance	1,220,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,195,000,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$1,195,000,000 for USMS salaries and expenses. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$35,581,000 below the budget request. The core missions of the USMS include the apprehension of fugitives; protection of the Federal judiciary and witnesses; execution of warrants and court orders; and the custody and transportation of unsentenced prisoners.

Regional Fugitive Task Forces.—The Committee strongly supports the USMS’s Regional Fugitive Task Forces [RFTFs], an effective partnership with other Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies to apprehend violent fugitives, but the program has not added a new RFTF since 2008. The Committee directs the USMS to provide a report detailing the initial and out-year costs and resource needs, including space requirements, to stand up a new RFTF as well as available locations for an expansion not later than 90 days after enactment of this act.

Gang Enforcement.—The Committee recognizes the need to reduce gang crime by apprehending violent fugitives. Within the amount provided in the budget request, the USMS shall dedicate no less than \$5,000,000 to operate anti-gang investigative units within the RFTFs, including supporting the supervisory, operational, equipment, and training needs of these units, in order to target gangs of national significance.

Sex Offender Apprehension.—The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 [AWA] (Public Law 109–248) gives the USMS the authority to apprehend convicted sex offenders who fail to register as fugitives. The act also directs the USMS to assist jurisdictions in locating and apprehending these individuals.

The USMS currently has on board 160 Deputy Marshals to assist States in locating and apprehending sex offenders who violate sex offender registration requirements. However, the USMS estimates it needs a dedicated force of at least 500 Deputy Marshals to expand AWA enforcement activities in districts across the country. The Committee’s recommendation provides not less than \$56,103,000 to continue AWA enforcement.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 2015	\$9,800,000
Budget estimate, 2016	15,000,000
House allowance	11,000,000
Committee recommendation	9,800,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$9,800,000 for construction in space controlled, occupied, or utilized by the USMS in Federal courthouses and buildings, including but not limited to the creation, renovation, and expansion of prisoner movement areas, elevators, and other law enforcement and court security support space. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$5,200,000 below the budget request.

FEDERAL PRISONER DETENTION

Appropriations, 2015	¹ \$1,595,307,000
Budget estimate, 2016	1,454,414,000
House allowance	1,058,081,000
Committee recommendation	1,454,414,000

¹In addition to \$495,307,000 in direct appropriations, this account was provided \$1,100,000,000 from the Department's Assets Forfeiture Fund for a total operating amount of \$1,595,307,000.

The Committee's recommendation provides \$1,454,414,000 for Federal Prisoner Detention [FPD]. The recommendation is \$140,893,000 below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level including off-setting funds from other accounts and is equal to the budget request.

The Committee expects the USMS to anticipate the true funding needs for this account in order to avoid funding shortfalls and the need for emergency reprogrammings to avert deficiencies. The Committee directs the USMS to report to the Committee on a quarterly basis the current number of individuals in the detention system, the projected number of individuals, and the associated annualized costs.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$93,000,000
Budget estimate, 2016	96,596,000
House allowance	95,000,000
Committee recommendation	93,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$93,000,000 for the National Security Division [NSD]. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$3,596,000 below the budget request.

The NSD coordinates the Department's national security and counterterrorism missions through law enforcement investigations and prosecutions, and handles counterespionage cases. The NSD works in coordination with the FBI, the Intelligence Community, and the U.S. Attorneys. Its primary function is to prevent acts of terrorism and espionage from being perpetrated in the United States by foreign powers.

Combating Cyber Threats to National Security.—The Committee's recommendation provides not less than \$29,675,000 for cybersecurity activities within the NSD for investigative, prosecutorial, intelligence collection, and oversight abilities that support the Intelligence Community in identifying and disrupting cyber threats to national security.

INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT

INTERAGENCY CRIME AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT

Appropriations, 2015	\$507,194,000
Budget estimate, 2016	519,301,000
House allowance	510,000,000
Committee recommendation	507,194,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$507,194,000 for Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$12,107,000 below the budget request.

The Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement account funds the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Forces [OCDETF], which is the centerpiece of the Department's drug enforcement and counternarcotics efforts. The mission of the OCDETF is to ensure a coordinated, multi-agency, intelligence-based, and prosecutor-led approach to identifying, disrupting, and dismantling those drug trafficking and money laundering organizations primarily responsible for the Nation's illicit drug supply and drug-related violence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2015	\$8,326,569,000
Budget estimate, 2016	8,414,625,000
House allowance	8,489,786,000
Committee recommendation	8,433,492,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$8,433,492,000 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] salaries and expenses. The recommendation is \$106,923,000 above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and \$18,867,000 above the budget request.

Criminal Justice Information Services [CJIS].—The Committee recommends the full funding request for CJIS including fee collections. The recommendation maintains the substantial improvements to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System [NICS] made in recent fiscal years that have increased the capacity of the existing NICS system to perform background checks on prospective firearms buyers.

Next Generation Cyber Initiative.—The FBI remains the only agency with the statutory authority, expertise, and ability to combine counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and criminal investigatory resources to neutralize, mitigate, and disrupt illegal computer-supported operations domestically. The Committee recommends continued funding for the Next Generation Cyber Initiative and supports the fiscal year 2016 increase of \$10,300,000. The FBI has made significant efforts in recent years to strengthen its cyber capabilities with an emphasis on better preventing attacks before they occur while protecting privacy, confidentiality, and civil liberties. Additional funding in fiscal year 2016 will improve the collection and analysis of cyber data obtained by the FBI and the National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force [NCIJTF], while improving the information conduit to existing field operations and personnel to improve the quality of and speed with which data is collected.

Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center [TEDAC].—TEDAC is designated by the U.S. Government as the single strategic level Improvised Explosive Devices [IED] exploitation center and repository, administered by the FBI, working closely with all of the Federal departments and agencies involved in the counter IED arena through the Joint Program Office for Countering Improvised Explosive Devices. The Committee views TEDAC as a critical resource in combating the global threat posed by terrorist use of explosives and in sharing IED threat information and intelligence. As such, the Committee's recommendation restores the full \$25,000,000 of operational funding to TEDAC, which the administration proposed to partially cut by \$9,500,000 in fiscal year 2016. This funding will continue to strengthen the role of TEDAC as the U.S. Government's strategic-level improvised explosive device exploitation center and provide the resources necessary to staff the new facility as it comes online.

Hazardous Devices School [HDS].—HDS is the sole U.S. Government entity for accrediting and certifying U.S. public safety bomb squads and bomb technicians. With the IED threat rising in frequency and sophistication both domestically and abroad, expanding