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House of Representatives

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS REGARDING THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT ON H.R. 3547, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

The following is an explanation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014.

This Act contains the twelve regular appropriations bills for fiscal year 2014. The divisions contained in the Act are as follows:

- Division A—Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014;
- Division B—Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014;
- Division C—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014;
- Division D—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014;
- Division E—Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2014;
- Division F—Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2014;
- Division G—Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014;
- Division H—Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014;
- Division I—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2014;
- Division J—Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014;
- Division K—Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2014; and
- Division L—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014.

Section 3 of the Act states that, unless expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

Section 4 of the Act specifies that this explanatory statement shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of this legislation as if

it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

Section 5 of the Act provides a statement of appropriations.

Section 6 of the Act states that each amount designated by Congress as being for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism is contingent on the President so designating all such amounts and transmitting such designations to Congress. The provision is consistent with the requirements in the Budget Control Act of 2011 for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism designations by the President.

Section 7 of the Act addresses possible technical scorekeeping differences for fiscal year 2014 between the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office.

Section 8 of the Act includes the text of the Senate amendment to H.R. 3547, relating to launch liability extension.

The Act does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined by clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

DIVISION A—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

The explanatory statement remains silent on provisions that were in both the House Report (H.Rpt. 113-116) and Senate Report (S.Rpt. 113-46) that remain unchanged by this agreement, except as noted in this explanatory statement.

The agreement restates that executive branch wishes cannot substitute for Congress’ own statements as to the best evidence of congressional intentions, which are the official reports of the Congress. The agreement further points out that funds in this Act must be used for the purposes for which appropriated, as required by section 1301 of title 31 of the United States Code, which provides: “Appropriations shall be applied only to the objects for which the appropriations were made except as otherwise provided by law.”

The House and Senate report language that is not changed by the explanatory statement is approved and indicates congressional intentions. The explanatory statement, while repeating some report language for emphasis, does not intend to negate the

language referred to above unless expressly provided herein.

In cases in which the House or the Senate have directed the submission of a report, such report is to be submitted to both the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than 60 days after enactment, unless otherwise directed.

Hereafter, in Division A of this statement, the term ‘the Committees’ refers to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

TITLE I—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND MARKETING OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The agreement provides \$43,778,000 for the Office of the Secretary.

The following table reflects the agreement:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (Dollars in thousands)	
Office of the Secretary	\$5,051
Office of Tribal Relations	498
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Coordination	1,496
Office of Advocacy and Outreach	1,209
Office of Assistant Secretary for Administration	23,590
Departmental Administration	(22,786)
Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations	3,869
Office of Communications	8,065
Total, Office of the Secretary	\$43,778

During fiscal year 2013, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) failed to communicate to the Committees information related to a number of Congressional priorities. In particular, the Department failed to provide timely updates on major spending changes for the Modernize and Innovate the Delivery of Agricultural Systems and the Rental Assistance Program among others. In fiscal year 2014 and beyond, it is incumbent upon USDA to promptly notify the Committees in writing and via briefing on major changes in projects or programs in order for the Committees to fulfill their oversight responsibilities.

The agreement reiterates that reports requested by the Committees are an important part of congressional oversight. The Department is consistently delinquent in submitting these reports, especially due to excessively long reviews in the Office of the Secretary. The Secretary is directed to ensure that the dates and directives, which are

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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