
Committee: Senate Committee on Appropriations
Event: [Full Committee Markup of Commerce, Justice, Science; Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA; and Legislative Branch Appropriations Acts](#)
Date: July 10, 2025
Time: 09:30 AM
Place: 106 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Member Toplines:

Chair Susan Collins (R-ME): Collins applauded key provisions in the bills that support law enforcement, science and technology research, food safety, nutrition programs, and agricultural research. She emphasized that all three bills were the result of good-faith, bipartisan negotiations and reflect important national priorities, calling for continued bipartisan progress on passing these bills.

Vice Chair Patty Murray (D-WA): Murray praised the bills' investments in food security, scientific research, public safety, and Capitol operations, including enhanced member security. She emphasized the constitutional authority of Congress over federal spending and criticized the Trump Administration's effort to reprogram FBI headquarters funding. Murray voiced concerns about continuing resolutions and partisan recissions, calling for bipartisan collaboration to pass responsible, negotiated funding bills.

Major Takeaways:

- ***Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS), and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026***
 - The bill was not passed out of Committee; Collins ultimately moved to place the panel on an extended recess pending further negotiations on the bill.
 - The bipartisan disagreement over Sen. **Chris Van Hollen's** (D-MD) amendment regarding the FBI headquarters will likely remain a focal point of continued debate.
 - Links to bill text, report language, and summaries are not available as the bill has not yet been reported out.
 - Murray noted the bill's critical investments in weather forecasting, violence prevention programs for women, and research at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
 - Sen. **Jerry Moran** (R-KS) emphasized minimal cuts to science programs – 0.67% to NSF – and the committee's rejection of the White House's NASA funding cuts. He also highlighted funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to maintain essential Earth science and disaster preparedness missions.

- Van Hollen applauded the bill's investments to protect agencies like NASA, NOAA, and NSF that support STEM programs, pointing out the \$9 billion provided for NSF and provisions to create cybersecurity and artificial intelligence (AI) standards.
- Moran filed a manager's package with continuing amendments to the appropriations bill. The package was agreed to.
- Van Hollen introduced an amendment that would block the Trump Administration from repurposing money the FBI was supposed to use to move its headquarters to Maryland, barring it from any other purpose than to continue construction for the agency's main building in Greenbelt.
 - Sens. Murray, **Chris Coons** (D-CT), and **Jeff Merkley** (D-OR) supported the amendment, arguing the Greenbelt location was selected through a thorough, expert-driven process that political or unvetted decisions should not override.
 - Sens. Moran and **Markwayne Mullin** (R-OK) opposed it, arguing the FBI's headquarters location lies outside the CJS subcommittee's jurisdiction. Mullin reiterated his trust in the FBI to be cognizant of the security risks posed by using the Reagan building as headquarters.
 - The amendment was agreed to 15-14, with Sen. **Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK) joining the Appropriations panel's Democrats in support.
- Sen. **Brian Schatz** (D-HI) introduced an amendment to require the National Weather Service (NWS) to maintain at least the same number of employees that were on staff as of September 30, 2024, to lock in staffing levels and prevent the current administration from reducing its workforce.
 - Murray and Schatz agreed, arguing that protecting NWS staffing is essential for public safety and economic stability, warning that leaving discretion to the Trump administration could undermine the agency's mission.
 - Sens. Moran, Collins, Mullin, and Murkowski opposed the amendment, noting the bill already includes a \$10 million increase to NWS funding and requires staffing sufficient to meet statutory requirements.
 - The amendment failed by a vote of 14-15.
- Sen. **Tammy Baldwin** (D-WI) offered an amendment to restore cancelled research grants for NSF, acknowledging that every committee member faced termination of research grants in their states.
 - Moran shared Baldwin's support for NSF funding, but voiced concern that the amendment was overly broad.
 - The amendment failed by a vote of 14-15.
- Murray raised concerns about the Trump administration's refusal to share key spending plans like apportionment data with the Appropriations Committee, prompting Collins to commit to addressing the issue.
- Sens. Baldwin, Merkley, Schatz, **Dick Durbin** (D-IL), Van Hollen, and **Jack Reed** (D-RI) changed their votes on the CJS bill to yes.
- Sens. Mullin, **Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), Collins, Moran, **Katie Britt** (R-AL), **Bill Hagerty** (R-TN), **Deb Fischer** (R-NE), **John Boozman** (R-AR), **Cindy Hyde-Smith** (R-MS), and **John Hoeven** (R-ND) changed their votes to no.

- ***Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026*** ([Summary](#)) ([Bill Text](#)) ([Report](#)) ([Adopted Amendments](#))
 - Favorably reported out of committee, 27-0
 - Murray and Sen. **Jeanne Shaheen** (D-NH) applauded the bill's funding of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) at projected participation levels. Murray opposed cuts to food programs and promoted targeted research that helps farmers and economies grow.
 - Hoeven mentioned that the bill's budget is only one percent different from last year's \$27 billion bill, which was agreed upon unanimously. However, he called out the seven percent increase in funding for WIC, which required savings in other areas of the budget.
 - He stressed the importance of agricultural research and food safety, endorsing full funding of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Agricultural Research Information System, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
 - Hoeven promoted efforts to support family-owned farms and small businesses, driving down their costs and strengthening the food supply.
 - Shaheen praised the bill for allowing farmers to reach international food markets, enabling the FDA to lead global regulation of the food supply, and aiding rural communities and low-income home buyers.
 - She urged senators to note that the appropriations process includes rescissions, making a separate rescission package unnecessary.
 - Hoeven filed a manager's package with continuing amendments to the appropriations bill. The package was agreed to.
 - Merkley argued that products made from hemp, such as CBD, are beneficial in healthcare applications and do not have hallucinogenic effects. He desired to work with McConnell to address hemp products with hallucinogenic factors without eliminating those with medicinal benefits.
 - McConnell stated that the [Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018](#) legalized hemp as an agricultural product, allowing for intoxicating hemp-derived products to be made and sold in the U.S. These products flooded the market and targeted children. He highlighted that his work with Merkley resulted in a one-year implementation of language that keeps the products out of children's hands and markets open to U.S. farmers.
 - Merkley proposed an amendment that would ensure Agricultural Research Service (ARS) stations are not subject to political pressure. He emphasized the critical importance of ARS stations and looked to guarantee that the bill's funds are not used to shut them down.



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- Hoeven and Merkley had a lengthy discussion regarding this amendment, with Hoeven claiming that his language in the bill's report addresses Merkley's concerns. Merkley commended Hoeven's language in Section 773 of the bill, and the two agreed to direct their staff to examine how the report language might be codified in the legislative text.
- **Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2026** ([Summary](#)) ([Bill Text](#)) ([Report](#)) ([Adopted Amendment](#))
 - Favorably reported out of committee, 26-1.