The House Appropriations Committee will be restructured this year to contain ten subcommittees, not the current thirteen. The catalyst for the reorganization was a steep cut to NASA’s budget, proposed last year but never implemented, that highlighted problems with the current subcommittee structure, which lumps NASA, Veterans Affairs, and Housing and Urban Developing, along with other independent agencies, into a single subcommittee (“VA-HUD”), where they must compete against each other for federal funds. The new Science, State, Justice and Commerce subcommittee (which provides funding for NOAA) will take over NASA and NSF appropriations from VA-HUD. The EPA will move from VA-HUD to the new Interior and Environment subcommittee, and Department of Energy programs from the old Interior subcommittee will be transferred to the Energy and Water Development Committee. Below is the new structure:

The House has already approved the restructuring, but it is unclear whether the Senate will follow suit and restructure its Appropriations subcommittees to match. If not, the FY 2006 appropriations bills will most likely be merged into a single omnibus bill at the end of the year.

The restructuring also means leadership and staff changes at the subcommittee level:

- **Agriculture** will be chaired by U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla (R-TX)

- **Defense** will be chaired by U.S. Rep. C.W. Bill Young (R-FL). Rich Efford will move to a senior staff position, and Doug Disrud will join the subcommittee from his former post at VA-HUD.
• **Energy and Water** will be chaired by U.S. Rep. David Hobson (R-OH). John Blazey will move to a senior staff position on the subcommittee, and Terry Tybrowski, formerly of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, will join the Energy and Water staff.

• **Foreign Operations** will be chaired by U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-AZ).

• **Interior and Environment** will be chaired by U.S. Rep. Charles Taylor (R-NC)

• **Homeland Security** will be chaired by U.S. Rep. Harold Rogers (R-KY). Ted Gallion, formerly of the VA-HUD subcommittee, will join the staff.

• **Labor, Health and Human Services and Education** will be chaired by U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH)

• **Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs** will be chaired by U.S. Rep. James Walsh (R-NY). Tim Peterson will move to a senior staff position from his former post at VA-HUD. Sarah Young, formerly of the Defense Subcommittee, will also join the staff.

• **Science, State, Justice and Commerce** will be chaired by U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA). Joel Kaplan will move to Science, State, Justice and Commerce from his former positions with the D.C. and Interior subcommittees. Clelia Alvarado, formerly of the D.C., Legislative and Defense Subcommittees, will handle administrative functions.

• **Transportation, Treasury and Housing** will be chaired by U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-MI). Dena Baron has been named clerk, and Tammy Hughes, formerly of VA-HUD, will handle administrative functions.