COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 112TH CONGRESS (DAY 1)

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

Held in Washington, DC, March 1, 2011

Printed for the use of the Committee on House Administration

Available on the Internet:
http://www.gpoaccess.gov/congress/house/administration/index.html

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

66–807 WASHINGTON : 2011

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Internet: bookstore.gpo.gov Phone: toll free (866) 512–1800; DC area (202) 512–1800
Fax: (202) 512–2104 Mail: Stop IDCC, Washington, DC 20402–0001

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

DANIEL E. LUNGREN, California, *Chairman*

GREGG HARPER, Mississippi
PHIL GINGREY, M.D., Georgia
AARON SCHOCK, Illinois
TODD ROKITA, Indiana
RICHARD NUGENT, Florida

ROBERT A. BRADY, Pennsylvania,
Ranking Minority Member
ZOE LOFGREN, California
CHARLES GONZALEZ, Texas

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

PHILIP KIKO, *Staff Director*
JAMIE FLEET, *Minority Staff Director*

COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 112TH CONGRESS (DAY 1)

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:58 a.m., in Room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Daniel E. Lungren [chairman of the committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Lungren, Harper, Gingrey, Schock, Nugent, Rokita, Brady, Lofgren, and Gonzalez.

Staff Present: Phil Kiko, Staff Director and General Counsel; Peter Schalestock, Deputy General Counsel; Kimani Little, Parliamentarian; Joe Wallace, Legislative Clerk; Yael Barash, Assistant Legislative Clerk; Salley Wood, Communications Director; Karin Moore, Elections Counsel; George Hadjiski, Member Services Staff; Richard Capetto, Member Services Staff; Jamie Fleet, Minority Staff Director; Kyle Andersen, Minority Press Secretary; Matt Defreitas, Minority Professional Staff Member; Khalil Abboud, Minority Elections Staff; and Thomas Hicks, Minority Elections Counsel.

The CHAIRMAN. I now call to order the Committee on House Administration for today's hearing on committee funding for the 112th Congress. The hearing record will remain open for 5 legislative days so that members may submit any materials they may wish to be included therein. And a quorum being present, we will proceed. As an initial matter, I would ask unanimous consent to place the proposed budget for the Committee on House Administration into the hearing record. Without objection, it is so ordered.

First, I would like to thank my fellow members of the committee for being here. As I have said before, I will say it again, between our attorney and new members, I believe we have an excellent committee composition. I am honored to serve here with each of you. I also would like to thank all the chairs and ranking members who will testify before us over the next 2 days. I cannot stress enough the importance of their work, particularly when you ensure the tremendous responsibility to ensure vigorous effective oversight of our Federal agencies. Our resources by comparison with these Federal agencies are, shall we say, less robust.

During fiscal year 2010, the executive branch had approximately 2.7 million employees with a proposed budget of $3.7 trillion. In this House, our committees had a total of just over 1,500 employees and a budget of approximately $150 million. We, of course, have

the responsibility to oversee that much larger budget, that much larger employment base.

Over the last century the executive branch and the administrative agencies have grown exponentially. We can discuss whether this is good or bad. But regardless, it remains, or demands, vigorous fact-finding, oversight and accountability and a task for which we in our committees are severely outmanned. Furthermore we are here at a time when our Nation's fiscal reality is simply incomprehensible. The national debt, as we know, is over $14.1 trillion. We know here in the House, we are fast approaching our debt ceiling. We now discuss annual $1.5 trillion deficits as if they were commonplace.

From 2009 to 2011, discretionary spending went from $1.2 trillion to $1.4 trillion. These numbers would be unimaginable if they weren't true. We simply have no choice but to reduce expenditures cutting out essential spending and not exempt ourselves from the path back to fiscal sanity and responsibility. We here in Congress cannot be immune to our fiscal reality, and we will not be, which is why, back in January, one of the first orders of business was to cut our own budgets.

Over the next 2 days, we will hear from our chairs and ranking members about how given the necessary 5 percent cut we imposed on ourselves they plan to do more with less, how they are managing and will manage their resources with equity and prudence, how they have been better able to utilize technology to increase efficiency and transparency and what challenges they see for the future.

Again, I thank each committee for joining us. They worked extremely hard serving the institution and striving to fulfill our obligation of vigorous oversight. I look forward to hearing their insights, observations and ideas and just say at the outset the submissions that we received from the committees have, in some particularity, given us an idea of what their budgets are, what they are doing, their plans for oversight for this Congress.

Today's hearing will supplement those written materials that they have already presented to us. I now would like to recognize my colleague and committee ranking member, Mr. Brady, for the purpose of providing an opening statement.

[The statement of Mr. Lungren follows:]

Statement of the Honorable Daniel E. Lungren (R-CA)
Chairman, Committee on House Administration
Hearing on the "Committee Funding for the 112th Congress"
March 1, 2011

Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you, with Ranking Member Brady, to testify in support of the Committee's budget request for the 112th Congress.

I would like to thank Mr. Brady for his support of the budget request and in keeping with long-standing practice of the Committee, I am pleased to provide the Minority with 1/3 of our funding and resources, including staff slots.

In the 111th Congress, the Committee was allocated $11,069,489. With the exception of money budgeted for

Contested Elections travel and New Member Orientation activities, 2/3 of the funds were provided to the Majority and 1/3 to the Minority.

In recognition of the budgetary challenges facing Congress and the nation, we respectfully request $10,516.013 for the 112th Congress, which reflects a 5 percent reduction in our budget from the last Congress.

Our Committee anticipates a demanding agenda this Congress as we address critical Capitol Security issues and conduct vigorous oversight of House administrative operations and federal elections. I believe the funds we are requesting will enable us to carry out our ambitious agenda and fulfill our

responsibilities to this Congress and the people of the United States.

Mr. BRADY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, these hearings today and tomorrow will probably be the most important part of what our committee does. Rather than go to a long opening statement, I would rather hear from our colleagues. I ask unanimous consent to include the longer statement into the record. And I would probably hope and/or, for the most part, when we do have these hearings and the ranking member and the chairman come together, that we do ask them about their cuts and how they did their one-third two-thirds. I am sure you will do that. And hopefully that they get together and they can get together and get along. And the reason why I emphasize that, because especially for the new members on the committee, this committee does get along. We get along excellently.

I have a great relationship with the chairman. I hope that he has a good relationship with me. We don't always and we don't necessarily have to agree, and we are not supposed to agree on everything. But we do it respectfully. We don't embarrass each other, we don't embarrass other members. But we do agree on 95 percent of what we do here because we are a members committee.

So anybody in front of us who doesn't get along, I am going to question that and find out why they don't get along, and maybe sit them in with us from time to time and let them know how we do get along. And we do. We are a members committee. And I said it often that whatever they—we are the committee that they ought to feel free to come in front of and we try to help them in every way. And I don't extend that to Democrats only. I extend it to Republicans. But when Republicans have come to me, I naturally go to my chairman, then my ranking member, then my chairman now and discuss it with him and not get blindsided either way. That is where we can keep this gleesiness that we do have to keep it together.

So Mr. Chairman, with that, thank you for holding these hearings and look forward to our testimony from our chairmen and ranking members.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. And I very much appreciate your comments and am in accord with them. Now, for the first presentation by a committee, we have the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee with the chairman, Congressman John Mica, and the ranking member, Congressman Rahall. And gentlemen, you are recognized, and we appreciate the chance to hear from you.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JOHN MICA, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, ranking member, members of the important House Administration Committee. You do have important work. And I had the honor to be selected to serve on the House Administration Committee for a number of years and appreciate your efforts in trying to make the House run, and also this important budget responsibility over committees. And a number of other key issues. But let me just say briefly, and I have a lengthy statement that I would like unanimous consent to be made part of the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

Mr. MICA. Well, even though my name is John, I am not a Johnny-come-lately on saving money in the T&I Committee. As the Republican ranking member turned back about $1 million, $500,000 in the 110th and 111th while in the minority, that was of the funds allocated to us, and I am pleased to present a budget on behalf of the committee for the 112th Congress, which is 5 percent lower than the 111th Congress.

So we will go from $20 billion—$20 billion—go from $20.874 million to—round the numbers off, to 19.830, which is more than $1 million in savings for that period.

So we are pleased to now, in the majority, to continue the trend. And also, trying to do more with less, even though I think we will be more productive than the less productive last couple of sessions. We intend to, and we have passed out an FAA reauthorization already, an extension on the import and transportation highway and transit bill that we all take up tomorrow, and then reauthorization of several other key programs this year.

So we have that responsibility, plus important oversight responsibility that we will conduct. And we will do it with a lean, I won't say mean, aggressive approach and thorough job on transportation and infrastructure for the House of Representatives and the Congress. And pleased to yield back. And I will be glad to answer at the appropriate time any questions.

[The statement of Mr. Mica follows:]

Statement of the Honorable John L. Mica
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Before the
Committee on House Administration
March 1, 2011

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Committee on House Administration in support of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's budget request.

Our request was prepared in accordance with the guidance set forth by your Committee. It represents a five percent reduction from the Committee's budget during the 111th Congress.

Just as families and businesses across this country have tightened their belts in response to the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, we too are prepared to do more with less.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has an ambitious legislative agenda for the 112th Congress. First, we must finally enact the

long-delayed reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration, which is unfortunately on its 17th extension.

In addition, we must enact a multi-year reauthorization of surface transportation programs. The previous authorization for these programs, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), expired at the end of fiscal year 2009. Since that time, the highway, transit, highway safety, and motor carrier safety programs have been operating under a series (six total) of short-term extensions.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is conducting a series of cross-country Committee meetings and field hearings with State and local transportation officials and other stakeholders to help inform the Committee's development of the surface transportation reauthorization bill.

In these meetings, the Committee is seeking input on how to consolidate and improve the performance of programs, cut government red tape and streamline the project delivery process, increase private sector

investment in our infrastructure, identify creative financing alternatives, and other ideas for writing the legislation.

The best ideas to improve and streamline government programs often come from outside of Washington, so before we draft any legislation these meetings will provide the Committee with valuable insight and information.

During the month of February, I and many of my Committee colleagues traveled to 11 cities across the country – beginning in the home town of Ranking Member Rahall -- to conduct a total of four field hearings and seven listening sessions. The Committee will conduct additional field hearings and listening sessions in the weeks ahead to seek further input to the surface transportation reauthorization bill.

The Committee will also reauthorize the United States Coast Guard to ensure that it has the authorities and resources to fulfill its many important missions. This effort will include an examination of issues related to oil spill prevention, mitigation, and response.

Other areas within the Committee's jurisdiction will be examined as well, including Amtrak reform, high-speed rail, and pipeline safety, to name a few.

The Committee will perform aggressive oversight of controversial regulations issued by the current Administration, particularly by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Committee will also continue its vigorous oversight of the tens of billions of dollars distributed to states for transportation infrastructure investments under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

To achieve these goals, the Committee must maintain its skilled and technically knowledgeable Committee staff. Most of our budget goes to fund this staff.

As I mentioned earlier, our request represents a five percent decrease below the budget we had in the 111th Congress. We have elected to divide the proposed 112th Budget evenly between the two sessions.

With regard to the allocation of resources between the Majority and Minority, we propose to continue the method used by the Committee in the past, with 90 percent of the budget being used for salaries, divided one-third to the Minority and two-thirds to the Majority. The remaining ten percent of the budget is proposed to be used for the Committee's non-salary expenses. Consistent with the Committee's traditional approach for budgeting non-salary expenses, there will not be a separate Minority budget for travel and equipment, but we will make every effort to meet their needs. I was satisfied with this approach when we were in the Minority, and I am confident that the Minority will feel that we have treated them fairly.

As I have done in the past, returning more than $1 million from the Minority's portion of the Committee's budget during the 111th Congress, we will continue to look for ways to save taxpayer's dollars while at the same time conducting vigorous oversight.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present our budget. I would be pleased to answer any questions.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. NICK RAHALL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Rahall.

Mr. RAHALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate you and Mr. Brady having our T&I Committee before you to testify on our committee's budget for the 112th Congress. I will keep both my prepared statement for the record and my oral statement very short and brief.

To date, Mr. Chairman, I am happy to say that Chairman Mica has treated our committee minority fairly. I control one-third of the budget for the Democratic staff salaries and other matters such as equipment and supplies are dealt with on a nonpartisan manner. So I support Chairman Mica's request. And I have heard Mr. Brady speak the nonpartisanship and the ability to get along of this committee on rules administration. And I must say, you would have to battle our committee for the number one spot as being the most nonpartisan and able to get along chairman and minority ranking member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support Chairman Mica's request.

[The statement of Mr. Rahall follows:]

Remarks of U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Before the
Committee on House Administration
March 1, 2011

Chairman Lungren and Ranking Member Brady, I join Chairman Mica in presenting our committee's budget for the 112th Congress to you.

To date, the Committee Minority has been treated fairly. I control one-third of the budget for Democratic staff salaries, and other matters such as equipment and supplies are dealt with on a non-partisan basis.

Thank you.

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 114

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Mr. MICA (for himself and Mr. RAHALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $19,830,446.30 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $9,915,223.15 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $9,915,223.15, shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

○

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. I yield myself 5 minutes. Obviously, you have requested a 5 percent decrease in funds from the 111th Congress. I believe that takes you back to somewhere close to where you were in the 110th Congress in total. Where have you been able to make your savings? Do you anticipate any difficulties with respect to proceeding this year.

Mr. MICA. Well, about 90 percent of our budget goes for salaries, so we are going to cut back on some positions. But, again, minority has a third of the resources. We didn't fill some when we were in the minority. And then I might say too, we have already hired at least a half a dozen, maybe eight of the minority staff to the majority staff who were formerly in the majority staff but are incredible professionals that we are fortunate to have.

So I think we can do it and I think we can complete our job, again, just maximizing the great resources that we already have.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Rahall, you have worked out the one-third, two-thirds?

Mr. RAHALL. That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. And are you both satisfied that you can do the oversight that we are supposed to be doing this year? I mean, there has been a lot of talk about doing oversight. And I always remind people that every committee has responsibility for oversight, not just the "Oversight Committee."

Mr. RAHALL. Well, the chairman has already embarked on a very rigorous schedule of oversight already. I have not been able to keep up with him at all of them. But he has done that. And I anticipate that he will be able to do it within the confines of this budget, yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Mica, you have already started oversight?

Mr. MICA. Yes. And subpoenas aren't very expensive. So whatever it takes, and as economically as we can move forward, we will.

The CHAIRMAN. You have already done some field hearings?

Mr. MICA. Oh, yes. In fact, we did first—we produced a report last October called "The Federal Government Must Stop Sitting on Its Assets." And the first field hearing we did, one of the biggest assets we are sitting on is the northeast corridor. And we conducted our first field hearing. We had about 15 members in this blinding snowstorm in Grand Central Station. I looked at that and I looked at another $16 billion worth of projects going on in New York City.

Then we began our round and now we are going to extend the transportation bill. We have had six interim short-term extensions of the transportation bill which don't allow the States to move forward with big projects, hence, you don't get employment in the States. And it is very important that we do that.

Now, a lot of States now are coming into their construction season so it is vitally important that we extend that. So parallel to first passing out the FAA bill, which we have done 17 extensions, the last 4 years they were not able to pass an FAA bill, we passed that out of committee last week. We hope to have that up in a week. But parallel also to that, we are doing hearings on the FAA—I am sorry, on the transportation reauthorization.

We started in a bipartisan manner, and I started—went to Beckley, never been to Beckley, West Virginia. Then we went to the State capital. Started in the ranking member's district. Went to the

State capital of West Virginia. And we left at 4:30 after votes. I guess our last vote was last Saturday at 4:30. And we held a hearing, convened it at 10:30 in the morning at Columbus, Ohio, the State capital. We went to Indianapolis. From there, even though our flights were cancelled, we drove to Chicago, did a hearing in Chicago. Then we flew to Portland, did a hearing in Vancouver. Then we did one in Fresno where they have, of course, one of the terminis of high speed rail, but also on the bill.

Then we did a joint House-Senate bicameral bipartisan hearing with Senator Boxer, somewhat unprecedented for the two bodies on this kind of legislation, in Los Angeles. Then we flew to Oklahoma City, did a hearing there. Then we went to Tulsa on a major project with the governor. And then we went to Arkansas, Jonesboro, Arkansas, Memphis, Tennessee, and then flew to Miami for starters.

So I would say that we are conducting oversight. We are also running a parallel effort to gain understanding, support and then build recommendations from the folks out there that deal with the Federal Government on what we put into a long-term transportation bill, which we hope to have before the Congress by the September deadline.

The CHAIRMAN. So it does sound like you are doing oversight. You ought to think of Johnny Cash's song, "I've Been Everywhere."

Mr. MICA. Well, the best we did going back to sitting on our assets, several new aggressive subcommittee chairs and Mr. Denham heads up public buildings which is within—it oversees FEMA, public buildings economic development. We held probably the coldest hearing you ever would want to attend in a vacant building between here and the White House that sat vacant for more than 10 years next, to the Old Post Office, which has 400,000 square feet and only 200,000 square feet utilized.

But we held it in a vacant building 2 weeks ago when it was about the coldest day with no heating there. And your heart would have warmed, Mr. Lungren, if you had seen the bureaucrats shivering, as Mr. Denham held them accountable for leaving that Federal asset vacant and sitting on it for more than a decade.

So I think we started that. We don't need a lot of money. We just need a cold vacant building to conduct the hearings.

The CHAIRMAN. My time has more than expired.

Mr. Brady.

Mr. BRADY. Yes. And respectfully to correct you, subpoenas are very expensive.

The CHAIRMAN. It depends whether you issue them or you are receiving them. Mr. Schock.

Mr. MICA. Hopefully we won't have to do that.

Mr. SCHOCK. I would just say congratulations on your good work so far. Clearly, you are not sitting on your assets. And I just would ask as a strong proponent of a transportation highway bill, I want to make sure that this 5 percent reduction is not going to, in any way, impede our ability to get a highway bill?

Mr. MICA. Absolutely not. Mr. Rahall.

Mr. RAHALL. I hope not. No, I would not anticipate it affecting the transportation reauthorization at all.

Mr. SCHOCK. Good. All right. Thanks.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Rokita.

Mr. ROKITA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you ranking member. Indiana was one of your stops. I happened to be in part of that meeting. I want to thank you for taking such an aggressive approach coming to see so many of us across the country. I didn't take it as an oversight so much as I took it as a listening session. And again, it was so very well received. When I think of oversight, I am thinking of the Department of Transportation right here. I am one that personally believes there are too many people in the Department of Transportation, too many bureaucrats.

And it is just not at Department of Transportation, it is all the bureaucracies pushing endless pieces of paper, actually acting in a way that prohibits money from getting to the States. So my question in terms of this budget hearing is, do you feel that you have, not the right amount of people, because I think all our committees have the right amount of people, quite frankly, but the right type of people to go and do the type of, and do oversight of the Department of Transportation if that, in fact, is your intent.

Mr. MICA. Well, let me say on the part about going out and hearing from folks, is what you do is you gain a better understanding of the bureaucracy that they don't need in Washington and support for eliminating that. I believe that we can—and if you went to these hearings, you heard about consolidation, you heard about overregulation, you heard about overreach by the Federal Government. And then you pinpoint who is responsible for that.

So they give us the ammunition to put in the bill the changes we need to make, mostly with the Department of Transportation, but other agencies, that, again, are forcing people to spend money, the long process that—unneeded money, the long process that they go through. And we heard that at every hearing. So it does reinforce this. Now, on quality, I think we have some of the best staff and we are able to do more with less. We have initially hired some additional investigative staff and we are continuing to staff up. But I guarantee you that we can work within the budget we are presenting and do an effective job and find the best people. It is a challenge, though, and people are coming very expensive.

Today I am losing my chief of staff, who is retiring after 27 years of Federal service. It actually costs him money to stay in office. So I don't know what his plans are, he hasn't made them, but he will probably go out and make three times what he can and a third of the effort and a lot less abuse. So it is tough retaining good folks on the Hill today and attracting people to difficult positions. So good question. Thank you.

Mr. RAHALL. If I might respond. I assume you are talking about people in the agencies being qualified and experienced enough to do the job?

Mr. ROKITA. No, I am sorry. That was a drawn out question. I want to know if your committee has the right type of experience, expertise, professionals, to really get at what I consider the oversight of the executive branch bureaucracies?

Mr. RAHALL. I feel very confident on my side of the aisle, and with those on the majority side that I have worked with thus far. On our side, we have individuals that have institutional memories, they have long experience and tenure here on the Hill. To their credit, they stuck through what I am sure have been many offers

from downtown, to which the chairman alluded would be so much easier for them to accept. But they have dedicated their careers to public service. And they are providing myself and our minority side and the majority side with a great deal of experience from years of working with the Federal bureaucracy and transportation issues.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Mica, from the great State of Florida, we are glad to have you here as a minority member. We certainly appreciate your time, particularly as relates to the budget. But just to follow up, particularly as it relates to oversight. I think one of the things that we truly want to see happen is a vigorous oversight, particularly as relates to bureaucracy that currently exists in D.C. We are obviously—you know, Chairman Mica, when you said billions, obviously, we are so used to saying billions of dollars when we are talking about a multi-million dollar budget it tends to lose its, I guess, punch. But the dollars that you receive, obviously, from a bipartisan commitment in regards to rooting out excesses, and particularly as relates to oversight, you know, we want to see you champion that, and we appreciate your ability to work together as a cohesive group.

Mr. MICA. One of the things, let me just add too, is trying to find investigative personnel. And you want the highest quality. Many of the people that I have approached aren't willing to come here full-time. Some might come contract or part-time. For example, right now, I have gotten on a short-term basis the former Secretary of Transportation from the State of Florida. But she is only going to come for a month and a half. You need people like that of the highest caliber to assist us, because particularly in her instance, she knows where the bodies are buried, where the fat is in the Federal budget.

But on an investigative, I tried to hire a couple of top investigative people in this town, and they won't come because of the exposure. They will not work full-time. I think we should look at some ability to contract people who could come on for specific projects. Again, I think that that could be very beneficial to give us more leeway in doing that.

Mr. NUGENT. Well, you know, oversight depends upon the investigators that you hire obviously. Coming from an investigative background you are only as good as the investigators you hire. And if you really want to get down to the brass tacks in regards to, like you say, where the bodies are buried, you have to have an aggressive but a competent staff that isn't just learning the process, but really understands the process.

Mr. MICA. Exactly.

Mr. NUGENT. Thank you, sir.

Mr. MICA. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. We thank you both for your presentation, and thank you for the work that you are already doing.

Mr. MICA. Thank you.

Mr. RAHALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. We have been told Judiciary is walking in right now.

Welcome, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member from the Judiciary Committee. This is the regular hearing that we schedule for

funding for all the committees. We have received your voluminous paperwork, and thank you for it, outlining the oversight for the committee, your personnel requests and other submissions. And we appreciate that and we look forward to your testimony to in some way supplement what you have already presented. Mr. Smith.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. LAMAR SMITH, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me say I am impressed you are on time. I was expecting to have to wait who knows how long. But good to be here. Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the Judiciary Committee's budget request for this Congress. In this economy, all Americans are forced to tighten their belts and do more with less. I recognize that and the Judiciary Committee will do the same. This budget submission requests a decrease in funding of 5 percent below the funding for the 111th Congress. Among the important matters the committee must consider are ensuring that Federal law enforcement agencies have the necessary tools to prevent terrorist attacks, that America's borders are secure, that our Nation's children are safe from sex predators and that the administration of justice is fair and efficient within our Federal judiciary. In addition, the committee plays an important role in strengthening our economy and putting Americans back to work by ensuring robust and fair competition under the antitrust laws, promoting America's global competitiveness through our intellectual property laws and improving the business climate by reining in burdensome and unnecessary regulations. These issues are critical to the safety and well being of millions of Americans. This budget request will still allow us to retain a highly qualified staff as the cornerstone of the committee's capacity to consider complicated and often controversial legislation and policy issues that fall within our jurisdiction.

And I am pleased that Mr. Conyers, the ranking member, supports this budget submission and note that it continues the commitment to give the minority one-third of the staff slots along with one-third of the salaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to plead our case, and now I will yield back.

[The statement of Mr. Smith of Texas follows:]

Statement of Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith
Committee on House Administration
Judiciary Committee Budget for the 112th Congress
March 1, 2011

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the Judiciary Committee's budget request for the 112th Congress.

In this economy all Americans are forced to tighten their belts and do more with less. I recognize that and the Judiciary Committee will do the same. This budget submission requests a decrease in funding of five percent below the funding for the 111th Congress.

Among the important matters the Committee must consider are ensuring that federal law enforcement agencies have the necessary tools to prevent terrorist attacks; that

America's borders are secure; that our nation's children are safe from sexual predators; and that the administration of justice is fair and efficient within our federal judiciary.

In addition, the Committee plays an important role in strengthening our economy and putting Americans back to work, by ensuring robust and fair competition under the antitrust laws, promoting America's global competitiveness through our intellectual property laws, and improving the business climate by reining in burdensome and unnecessary regulations.

These issues are critical to the safety and well being of millions of Americans.

This budget request will still allow us to retain a highly qualified staff as the cornerstone of the Committee's

capacity to consider complicated and often controversial legislation and policy issues that fall within its jurisdiction.

I am pleased that Mr. Conyers supports this budget submission and note that it continues the commitment to give the Minority one-third of the staff slots along with one-third of the salaries.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Conyers.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JOHN CONYERS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. CONYERS. Thank you, Chairman Dan Lungren and my good friend Bob Brady and other members that are here. I am happy to be with you for this 112th session of Congress. It is true our roles are slightly different than they were in the 111th Congress. But because, as you know, Dan Lungren, in your terms on the Judiciary Committee, we on our side always like you, ladies and gentlemen, to get a sample of what it is like to be in the majority, because it is likely not to last that long, but I think it keeps you, I think it keeps your morale up, and we are very, very happy to join with Chairman Lamar Smith, with whom you and I have worked across the years with.

Now, all of the nice things about being a fair chairman is that you expect the same kind of results when you are not the chairman. And I am happy to say that Lamar has not let me down. We worked together, we shared the leadership in Judiciary, as you know, in a way that has always allowed both sides to have their voices and subject matters heard. And I need not remind either of you, or all of you, about the large amount of legislation that comes through Judiciary Committee. As a matter of fact, three of the first bills of this 112th Congress is in the jurisdiction of our committee, and we handled more legislation, if you discount the post offices, than any other committee going.

And we like it that way. And we have worked together. And this committee has always taken our needs into consideration. We have always had a fair shake from Chairman Brady, now himself now ranking member, and we hope that that relationship will continue. So I will put my statement in the record and hold ourselves open for any questions or comments that the committee may have. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Conyers follows:]

Statement of The Hon. John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
before the
House Committee on Administration
March 1, 2011

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to appear before you today with Chairman Smith to present our budget request for the House Judiciary Committee.

The Judiciary Committee is among the most active Committees in the House. In the last several Congresses, we have frequently been called upon to consider important and complex legislation that affects all facets of our society B from immigration policy to intellectual property.

During the 111th Congress, more than 1 in 10 legislative measures introduced were referred to this

Committee. The Judiciary Committee reported 43 bills and resolutions to the House, with accompanying legislative reports on all but a few. In addition, a total of 54 bills in which the Judiciary Committee had a jurisdictional interest were signed into law by the President.

Although the new House Leadership=s priorities may differ from those from the previous Congress, I expect the Judiciary Committee to play as equally an active role in the House=s major policy deliberations.

Chairman Smith has proposed an ambitious hearing and legislative schedule during which the Committee will continue to its work on patent and copyright measures,

immigration policy, Patriot Act sunset provisions, and antitrust issues, among many others. These activities will no doubt be very time, resource, and personnel intensive. Given the severe negative ramifications that could result without careful and thorough consideration of any of these matters, I believe it is imperative that adequate Committee staff resources be available on these issues.

The budget Chairman Smith and I have put before you today reflects our shared commitment to retaining and building a highly qualified staff to support the work of the Committee.

Consistent with past practice, Chairman Smith and I have agreed that one-third of the payroll shall be allocated to the Minority, after first deducting shared employees. The duties of shared employees are all non-partisan and

administrative in nature. I appreciate the spirit of cooperation shown by Chairman Smith in reaching this accommodation, and look forward to working with him in implementing the final budget this Committee approves.

Members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention to our request, and am happy to respond to any questions you might have.

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 127

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on the Judiciary in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself and Mr. CONYERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on the Judiciary in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on the Judiciary (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $16,802,812.46 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $8,401,406.23 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $8,401,406.23 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

○

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. I will recognize myself for 5 minutes. I notice that in the actual raw numbers, Chairman Smith, you end up with a minus 10.8 percent. I guess that reflects the fact that you also had an increase in funding in the last Congress to take care of the impeachment hearings and actual action that we took on that.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. That is correct, Mr. Chairman. We had a fairly lengthy process that involved outside counsel, outside investigators, and that additional staff accounted for the increase in expenditures in the last Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. And luckily we don't have impeachments of Federal judges very often.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. We hope we don't have to go through any impeachment procedures in this Congress. We don't anticipate any at this point.

The CHAIRMAN. So if we take that out, you have hit the mark with a 5 percent decrease. How did you manage to find the savings in the budget?

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Well, we found the savings in the budget by, quite frankly, not hiring as many staff members as we would have otherwise, both support staff and attorneys. We hope we can do the same job, we hope we can work harder, smarter. Maybe it will require some double time and extra time, but we hope we can get the job done just as well as we have in the past.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Conyers.

Mr. CONYERS. We have noticed that we are extremely busy. You know, this is the first day of the third month of this session of Congress, and we have been busier than ever with less staff. And although it is difficult, I think it is necessary in terms of the circumstances that we find ourselves in. It is to me perfectly appropriate that the legislative branch reevaluate its resources in how we spend our money, just as we are asking everybody else to do the same thing.

So it is in that spirit that we think that this committee will be able to accomplish all that we have done in the past, even though it will probably—well, I know it will be with less.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Smith, every committee has a responsibility of doing oversight, even though we have an official "Oversight Committee." Are you satisfied that you will have the resources to do the oversight of those parts of the executive branch that we are responsible for overseeing?

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Oversight is particularly important to the committee. We do not have a specific Oversight Subcommittee, but we do have designated staff that conducts oversight. And in fact, all five of our subcommittees spend a good portion of their time on the oversight responsibilities. And again, we have, I think, it is three staff members that are dedicated specifically to oversight and to the work that goes into that.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Brady.

Mr. BRADY. Just I was pleased to hear that both of you are still getting along as the transfer of power from one side to the other. And Mr. Conyers, you said, and I thank you for your comments, that we were extremely fair with you when you were the chairman,

and you would hope that it would be the same way now with Mr. Lungren as chairman. I can assure you that it will.

Mr. CONYERS. Good.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Schock.

Mr. SCHOCK. Well, I am impressed by the significant reduction you have made in your budget, so clearly leading by example. We appreciate that. And look forward to you doing a good job. That is all I got.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. I just want to echo to say in response, it is good to see some bipartisan support with each other working together. Hopefully that will work even further as you move along in your committee assignments. I also would like to thank in reference to your budget, particularly where you are today versus the 110th Congress. You actually are just a few dollars over the budget from the 110th Congress, so that is a great position to be. I wish more committees were like you. So thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. I also would hope that the executive branch would take your example. That is when you have a spike in funds for a crisis or unusual circumstance you don't use that as your baseline for the next year. And the Judiciary Committee has stood up on that, and I appreciate that, and thank both of you for your testimony.

Mr. CONYERS. Thank you very much.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, thank you very much for being here. You are the third committee up. We appreciate it. We have the submission that you made in written form, and we would very much like to hear from you to supplement that as you see fit. So Mr. Rogers, Mr. Ruppersberger.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. MIKE ROGERS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Brady. We appreciate the opportunity. Given the current challenging fiscal environment, the committee has sought to achieve greater efficiencies in the conduct of its work. Accordingly, the committee's budget request reflects a 5 percent decrease from the committee's top line budget for the 111th Congress. Additionally, the proposed budget does not include an increase for any budget category from 2011 to 2012. And I know we submitted a statement. I won't take the whole time. But one of the things that the ranking member and I realize is that this is a unique committee in a lot of ways. The skillsets for the employees that we hire are pretty narrow. Most of the work, the vast majority of the work that we do is in a classified setting.

So the oversight that we conduct is incredibly important. There are so few members that have the clearances to be able to do that oversight work. It is something that we have decided that we are going to work together more frequently than maybe in the past to try to accomplish that mission of aggressive oversight on behalf of the House Intelligence Committee.

When we looked at the budget, we knew it was coming, we decided we would build some efficiencies in together. We both jointly

supported this. On better coordination of travel, we think that was a place to save. We cut some positions on the committee. And that was probably the hardest thing for us to do given the, again, the very narrow skillset that is required for folks to perform their duties, including the ability to get a clearance on the House Intelligence Committee.

But we believe that this fairly reflects a budget that we still can perform those vital functions, we can still travel to the places that this committee needs to travel to in order to accomplish proper oversight in the world. And again, this is one of those rare committees that if you are not showing up someplace overseas, you are not doing your job in this particular mission.

So again, we appreciate the committee's consideration. Thanks for allowing us a few minutes. Again, my full statement is submitted for the record. And with that I will turn it over to my ranking member.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, this is—the Intelligence Committee's major role is the oversight of all the intelligence departments; CIA, NSA, there are different groups. We also are working very closely on budget issues involving all of the intelligence programs, whether it is space, whether it is cyber security, whether it is HUMINT, which CIA does.

Mr. Rogers and I are working very closely together. This is a joint statement. We have not been able in the last 4 years, have not been able to really have a budget passed. And one of our goals is to work together, both Republicans and Democrats, to make sure that we do what is necessary for our Intelligence Community. We believe that intelligence is the best defense against terrorism and a lot of other threats that are out there.

From a fiscal point of view, we all understand the cuts, the 5 percent cut that everyone has to go through. That means we are going to have to do more with less, but we are going to be up to the challenge. And I think part of the challenge is that both of our staffs are working together now. We are formulating our budget for the Intelligence Community and both staffs are coming together. And I think by working together, we are able to take the 5 percent cut that we all have to live with at this point. So if there are any questions, I have a statement for the record, any questions we would be happy to answer.

[The statement of Mr. Rogers and Mr. Ruppersberger follow:]

Joint Statement of

Chairman Mike Rogers and Ranking Member C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Before the

Committee on House Administration

Committee Budget Request

March 1, 2011

Chairman Lungren and Ranking Member Brady, thank you for the opportunity to present the Permanent Select Committee's bi-partisan budget request for the 112th Congress.

Given the current challenging fiscal environment, the Committee has sought to achieve greater efficiencies in the conduct of its work. Accordingly, the Committee's budget request reflects a 5% decrease from the Committee's top-line budget for the 111th Congress. Additionally, the proposed budget does not include an increase for any budget category from 2011 to 2012.

As you know, our nation's Intelligence Community is the first line of defense against the many threats we face. The hard work of the men and women of the intelligence community is one of the primary reasons there has not been a successful major attack on the homeland since 9/11 despite numerous failed and disrupted plots, and al Qaeda's unrelenting efforts to attack us. The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence fulfills two critical roles designed to ensure the government's successful, continued conduct of intelligence activities. First, our Committee serves as a connection between the classified business of intelligence and the American people. Through strong and effective oversight, we are responsible for assuring the American people that all of our government's intelligence activities are conducted in a manner consistent with American values. Second, the Committee ensures that the men and women of the Intelligence Community have the resources, capabilities, and authorities they need to keep our country safe. In short, strong and effective oversight committees contribute to the successful conduct of intelligence activities.

Mr. Chairman, the specifics of the Committee's budget request are designed to ensure the fulfillment of both roles. The Committee must continue to recruit and retain a highly qualified and cleared staff. While the Committee has not yet filled all of its staff positions,

we anticipate filling as many vacancies as necessary to fulfill the Committee's mission. In this request, we continue the Committee's tradition of allocating two thirds of the personnel funds to the majority, and one third to the minority.

Additionally, over the past several years, the Committee has made significant improvements to its information technology systems. Given these improvements, we are able to reduce expenditures for such equipment. The funds we have requested in this area will be used to ensure the continued safe processing, dissemination, and retention of Committee documents and communications. We will ensure that any expenditure for such IT systems takes into account the growing and evolving cyber threats.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee's budget request for the 112th Congress is sound, ensuring an effective oversight in a fiscally responsible manner. The funds requested will ensure that the Committee fulfills its critical role in the nation's conduct of intelligence activities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We welcome any questions the Committee might have.

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 125

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan (for himself and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $10,307,500 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $5,153,750 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $5,153,750 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

○

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. Your statements will be considered a part of the record. I was privileged to serve on the Intelligence Committee in the 1980s. I realize what an important role it has. In my judgment, it has an even more important role today. One of the things that we depend on the Intelligence Committee to do is to ensure that we have the intelligence apparatus and resources necessary to do the job, and at the same time make sure the American people, along with the Judiciary Committee, have their civil liberties preserved. That is a very, very important function. And while I brought the resolution to the floor to cut everybody by 5 percent, I just want to make sure that you are able to do the job that you have to do. This is exceptionally important work. You have to have highly skilled staff. And can you tell this committee that, in fact, you have the resources to do the job that you think needs to be done.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, obviously, I think every committee, including this committee, could argue that, yes, we would like to fill all our slots to do it. I do believe after careful review and working through staff issues and working through with the ranking member that we accomplish the mission of the Intelligence Committee on the recommended budget that we have given you. It does mean a little bit more work for the staff that we have, it means a little extra overtime. But in these tough times I think every family I know that I represent is doing exactly the same thing. And I know the people who work for the committee are equally committed to that kind of work until the job is done, not until the clock tells you the job is done.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I have a note in that regard is that under Chairman Reyes and Ranking Member Hoekstra, we were able to upgrade our technology in the last 4 years. And as a result of that, will help us tremendously in dealing with these cuts. There is no question we have a lot of threats, whether it is cyber security, one of the biggest threats to our country, and NSA is an integral part of dealing with the defenses in that regard. We have the threat of China and Russia in space, and that is another area that we need to focus on. But we are up to the task. And the teamwork approach, I think that Chairman Rogers and I have agreed to work together, will make that a big difference. And in the past, sometimes our staffs weren't working as closely as they could.

We are now working together as a staff on issues of intelligence, cyber security, space, gangs, Mexico, drug issues, all of those different areas.

The CHAIRMAN. Is the new SCIF working for you?

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, it is fantastic. The SCIF that you served in was like serving on a very small submarine on a bad day. The new SCIF, we have plenty of room, we have got a lot of great space. If you could have figured out a window, to give us windows we really would have appreciated that.

The CHAIRMAN. But if we gave you windows it wouldn't be a SCIF.

Mr. ROGERS. That is right. That is why I said if you could figure that out.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Brady.

Mr. BRADY. Just happy to see that both of you do work together and work together long. That working relationship benefits the whole United States and benefits our citizens. Thank you.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I appreciate it. And I think one of the things we always joke. But I was a prosecutor and he was an FBI agent, and together I think we have had training and we have worked in that area of working together in strike forces and dealing with targets like we have in intelligence, and we did that in defense, we did that in the criminal area and now we are doing it in intelligence.

Mr. BRADY. Both of those scare me to death.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. While you are sleeping, we are going to be there protecting you, sir, so it will be okay.

Mr. BRADY. That is what scares me.

Mr. ROGERS. There is a gentleman outside who would like to talk to you, Mr. Brady.

Mr. BRADY. No doubt he will.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Rokita, do you have any questions?

Mr. ROKITA. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. I love it when I hear a prosecutor and law enforcement getting together having a lot of years on the law enforcement side. But the intelligence area, everything, everything operates from intelligence. That is the baseline in regards to where we need to go, what our threats are, how we identify our threats, and where we need to put our resources. So to hear that both of you, your staffs are working together, instead of working opposite of each other, particularly in reduced budgets, that is really where we need to go, and so I am happy to see that.

Mr. ROGERS. I will tell you we did something that has not been done since I have been on the committee. It may have happened back in the 1980s, but it certainly hasn't happened for a long time. We had a budget briefing where we had both staffs briefing the members at the same time. I haven't seen that since I have been on the committee. I mean, that just goes—we have just changed the culture because we knew we had to do more with less, that wasting any time fighting amongst ourselves was not going to be valuable to the end game of the mission. And I have to tell you, both of us agree with you, there is no more important time in our history than the need for intelligence and accurate intelligence that, you know, the old days of knowing one enemy and where you could apply your resources are gone. We don't know where the next fire is. And so our getting it right on the budgets for the Intelligence Committee so that they have the resources to be the centuries around the world is incredibly important, and we take that mission very, very seriously. And now, again, our staffs working together, I think will go a long way to accomplishing that end.

Mr. NUGENT. And I would think in oversight, hopefully, you can bring the same mindset to the agencies that you oversee.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. But our issue is not to tear them down and catch them, our issue is to build them up and give them the resources and then hold them accountable for their performance.

I would like to point out one thing if you were in law enforcement that where I come from, the prosecutor usually was in

charge, and then you would have the agents and whatever. Now, I know I am in the minority, but I am just reminding Chairman Rogers that——

Mr. NUGENT. There are some bad court systems like that.

Mr. ROGERS. At least they took credit for being the case, as you know, Sheriff, good and well.

The CHAIRMAN. Chairman Rogers, in addition to the fact that your staff works for all the members on the Intelligence Committee, when Members of Congress not on the Intelligence Committee want to review things that are classified, they must rely on your staff and your facilities to do so as well, correct?

Mr. ROGERS. Yes, that is correct, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I think maybe we ought to remind some of our colleagues that they have that opportunity before we have votes at particular times because we all share in the responsibility of oversight for the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. ROGERS. I agree, Mr. Chairman. And we both agree that a well-informed member makes better decisions. These are very complicated issues. The secrecy is incredibly important, as you know, Mr. Chairman, from your time on the committee, so that we don't lose people who have, in good faith, put their trust in the United States. That is incredibly important. And the techniques that our Intelligence Community uses to get information is incredibly important. But we believe that most members who want to take advantage of that should take advantage of that and go through the appropriate oath-taking process to keep that information classified.

And we have established rules that Mr. Ruppersberger and I are going to, in a short-term, agree to a turn-around when a member requests access to that.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. I know that is appreciated by all. And we thank you for the way that you are conducting the Intelligence Committee. And thank you for working within the budget. I appreciate it.

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you Mr. Ranking Member.

The CHAIRMAN. I have not forgotten the subway, Mr. Ruppersberger.

Mr. HALL. Good afternoon, I think.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, now, two of my favorite people, because we always enjoy the testimony. For freshman members, these are two of the nicest people in the Congress and they usually come up with some of the most interesting comments when they appear before our committee. And I know they will not fail us today.

We thank you for appearing before our committee. This is the regular hearing that we have on the funding resolution before we bring the full funding resolution to the floor of the House. As we all know, we passed a resolution indicating that we are going to take 5 percent cuts, both with our MRAs, with the leadership and with our committees. And the committees have all submitted their numbers. We have here your written submissions. Believe it or not, we have got plenty of stuff from all the committees, and we actually go through it. But we stand ready to hear your oral testimony and appreciate the fact that you are here on time. So with that

Chairman Hall and Ranking Member Johnson, we are happy to hear from you.

Mr. HALL. Go?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, go.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. RALPH HALL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. HALL. I have already said good afternoon. I thank you and know that you have a lot of this to do, and I will try to be as brief as I can be.

I read well from the printed page, and I have scanned through this, and I have cut out all I don't have to read. But the committee's jurisdiction is broad and very diverse. We have a lot of Federal nondefense research and development agencies such as DOE, NASA, NIST, NSF, EPA, and we are going to really be working on the EPA a little bit, DHS and Department of Transportation. Actually, we will also be examining programs with expiring or expired authorizations. That is where we got some of our 5 percent cut.

As you can imagine, the committee staff on both sides of the aisle need to have sufficient technical expertise to know how to handle this. So we have tried, and I am sure Ranking Member Johnson would agree with me, that we have a talented and skilled staff capable of delivering for our members, and we tried not to cut back too much on salaries but to really find things that we can do without.

The budget before you does reflect a 5 percent cut in overall spending from the 111th Congress to the 112th Congress. Many of the savings will come from tightening our supplies budget, we found areas there and deferring—this may be unique, but deferring the purchase of new computers for 1 year. I think the budget reasonably achieves savings while protecting our highest priorities.

As in years past, we have been diligent about making sure that the minority receives one-third of the total staff slots, as well as control over one-third of the personnel and the salary budget.

I look forward to a great Congress with Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson. She is not only my good friend, she is my neighbor. We have neighboring districts in Texas. And while we may disagree on a few things, we share a lot of common goals, including protecting our space assets, advancing America's energy security, and promoting our Nation's competitiveness.

And I will do my best to answer any questions that—I won't solicit questions, but I will do my best to answer them. I yield back my time, and I am ready to leave.

[The statement of Mr. Hall follows:]

Testimony Before the Committee on House Administration

Ralph M. Hall
Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
March 1, 2011

Good Afternoon. I know that you have many committees coming before you today, so I will be brief. As Chairman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I am committed to meeting the needs of our Committee Members, the Members of Congress, and the American people. The Committee's jurisdiction is quite broad and diverse, covering Federal non-defense research and development in agencies such as the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Space and Aeronautics Administration (NASA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Over the next two years, the Committee will engage in a great deal of oversight over the many programs in our jurisdiction to ensure that they are working efficiently and effectively. We will also be examining programs with expiring or expired authorizations. As you can imagine, the Committee's staff on both sides of the aisle need to have sufficient technical expertise and know-how to handle this diverse jurisdiction. I am sure that Ranking Member Johnson would

agree with me that we have a very talented and skilled staff capable of delivering for our Members.

We are mindful that our nation faces challenging economic times and that we all need to cut back. The budget before you reflects a 5% cut in overall spending from the 111th Congress to the 112th Congress. Many of the savings come from tightening our supplies budget and deferring the purchase of new computers for one year. I think that this budget reasonably achieves savings while protecting our highest priorities. As in years past, we have been diligent about making sure that the Minority receives one-third of the total staff slots as well as control over one-third of the personnel/salary budget.

I look forward to a great Congress with Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson. While we may disagree on specifics, we share many common goals, including protecting our space assets, advancing America's energy security, and promoting our nation's competitiveness.

I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Ms. JOHNSON. Thank you very much, Chairman Lungren and Ranking Member Brady. I first want to say I am pleased to appear with my good friend, Chairman Hall at today's hearing, and I know he will do an excellent job leading the committee in the 112th Congress, and I look forward to working constructively with him on many important issues that will come before our committee. We actually have been on this committee together, I am in my 19th year, and he was here even longer.

I think most people recognize that America is in a competitive fight to maintain its status as the most innovative country in the world, and I firmly believe that the Nation's economic future is dependent on how committed we are to this fight.

In light of the budgetary environment in which we find ourselves, it is imperative that we focus our limited Federal resources on those programs that are most effective. Our committee has a very broad and diverse jurisdiction, and the issues before us typically have a scientific or a technological component.

The staff of the Committee on Science, Space and Technology will play a critical role in our oversight efforts through the advisory support they provide as members of our committees. Unfortunately, the committee on Science, Space and Technology faces a unique challenge in that many of our staff must have advanced degrees beyond Master's or Ph.D's to effectively do their jobs. In attempting to attract and retain these types of highly sought after professionals, we must compete with many private and public entities.

I think it is vital that Mr. Hall's proposed budget be fully funded to maintain the committee staff's current level of expertise and talent and to preserve our ability to attract such highly skilled personnel. As the economy improves and private sector hires pick up, the challenge we face in this regard will only intensify.

As you know from testimony before this committee in prior years, our committee has a long tradition of allocating funding, two-thirds to the majority and one-third to the minority. I have no reason to doubt that Mr. Hall will continue this arrangement in the 112th Congress. And I will be happy to answer any questions you might have. Thank you.

[The statement of Ms. Johnson follows:]

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 109

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Mr. HALL (for himself and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR EOMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $13,346,273 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $6,685,636 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $6,660,637 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

○

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you both very much. Mr. Hall, EPA. Some of us would like to make sure we do proper oversight on EPA. Do you have the resources to do that?

Mr. HALL. I think so. You know, I think the Speaker cancelled out the oversight facility Ed Markey and Mr. Sensenbrenner put together, and we—I don't know if we benefited from it or not, but we inherited Mr. Sensenbrenner, and with his group that he has worked with for the past year, with Mr. Markey. And we are really looking very closely at the EPA and what they are doing to the various States.

And I think you might remember back some time before, we put a provision on EPA that unless they—the problem was we couldn't get an answer from them—that we put a provision in there that if they didn't answer in 30 days, it was granted. That way, you can't appeal from nothing, from doing nothing. That forced them to give us an answer. But somewhere along the way they got that knocked out.

When we had a new Speaker several years ago, he took after the EPA and the committee that taxes us and let up on the EPA right at the last, but still went after those that were writing the tax bill.

We really need to look closely at the EPA and how they got the right to attack the various States, and they did that by naming themselves to certain authorities and using that authority that I think is not based on science. And I think that is our duty to try to bring the people before us that reported that, and when they tell us who the science was, ask them what that science was and try to find out if it is really true or not. I think it is bad science that they made those decisions on.

But we are going to attack more the expenditures. They have $16 billion in the last 4 years of spending. All we have now are some pamphlets on global warming, for example, that EPA has entered into.

So we have the oversight. We have the people, I think, to really take them on. And I think Mrs. Johnson is going to be as anxious to be sure that the States are as protected as I am, or more so, maybe.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Brady, do you have any questions?

Mr. BRADY. No, I don't. But Chairman Hall, I hope that you don't get to Philadelphia often because I do use your quotes and I give you no credit for them.

Mr. HALL. Well, you are quoting the oldest guy in Congress. Can I tell you something? Just before I left to go back to get the general election returns, back several weeks ago, months ago—I have a neighbor, I am 87. He's 89. He hollered, hey Ralph, I want to tell you something. Stuck his head in the window and said I am getting married again. I said, do I know her? He said no. I said, well is she pretty? He said, well, no. I said, does she have a home or money or something? He said, I don't think so. I said, do you love her? He said, no. I said, what the hell are you marrying her for? He said, she can drive. Everybody's got something. That is a true story.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Rokita, you can try and top that.

Mr. ROKITA. The committee is not leasing any vehicles, right?

Mr. HALL. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent, do you pass too?

Mr. NUGENT. I pass.

The CHAIRMAN. Unless you have something to add to that, Ms. Johnson, we can——

Mr. HALL. I have got a lot more stories.

The CHAIRMAN. Ralph, I think you better stop while you are ahead.

Ms. JOHNSON. Let me say that Mr. Hall and I have known each other prior to either one of us coming to Congress, and we have always had a great relationship. As he told you, we don't agree on everything, but we have a way of discussing it and coming to an agreement for the most part. He is going to be a little harder on EPA than I am. I am just as concerned about lives and lungs as I am anything else that the environment would injure. And so, I look forward to working with him. We have always been friends. And when I have a problem, I get him in a closed quarters, and that is on the airplane. So thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. We thank both of you. And Ralph, I will talk to you later about some more stories. Thank you. Because of the schedule with votes later today, we are trying to see if we can get Rules Committee to come here earlier, so perhaps—not available. All right. We will stand adjourned till 1:20.

[Recess.]

The CHAIRMAN. We will resume the committee hearing, and thank the gentlemen from the Armed Services Committee for being here.

This is our regular hearing that we have on all committees for their funding resolutions so that we can present the omnibus funding resolution before the House. As we all know, we had that resolution about a 5 percent cut for every committee, so I think we know approximately where we are.

We have received your written materials in terms of oversight, your budgets, personnel, et cetera, et cetera, and that is something we have had a chance to look at. So now we would love to hear from both Chairman Buck McKeon and the ranking member, Mr. Smith. And if you have prepared statements, they will be entered into the record. We would love to hear what you have to tell us about how you are going to do a 5 percent cut.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. BUCK McKEON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. MCKEON. Well, I can shorten this up a little bit. And you have got my statement so I won't read it. I will just tell you that we have cut and it is not easy. We are the largest committee in Congress. And what we have done is just held up on hiring. We are not hiring to our full complement. We hope that it would be a temporary situation, and that we will be able to get up to full staffing. But right now we are making due with what we have. And I hope we will be able to do it without further cuts.

[The statement of Mr. McKeon follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

MARCH 1, 2011

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brady, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on the funding needs of the Committee on Armed Services along with my friend and partner, Adam Smith. You have the committee's funding resolution and supporting materials before you, so let me make some brief opening remarks and get to your questions.

In simple terms, this budget of $15 million is a 5 percent cut from the total HASC budget for the 111th Congress. This is a $792,000 decrease. Under the circumstances of our national economy, it is appropriate

that we too tighten our belts and reduce legislative branch operations spending. In supporting these reductions, I believe it is important that we highlight examples that demonstrate the Armed Services Committee has maintained a fiscally conservative approach to its operations for many years.

As you know, this is a unique committee with a unique charge. We have the primary responsibility to oversee a military actively fighting two wars. Yearly we authorize nearly 50 percent of the discretionary portion of the entire Federal budget. Overseeing the administration's strategy for two wars, eliminating waste, and finding efficiencies in the defense budget will be substantial challenges and require robust oversight. This committee also must ensure that our military has the right people, equipment,

and investments to deter and, if necessary, to win the next conflict wherever that is.

That is a huge mandate and, because of that, 60 of our colleagues—including two members of this committee—have chosen to serve with us. The Armed Services committee is now the largest committee in the House. Unlike many other committees whose membership decreased in the 112th Congress, the HASC continues to have 62 members--nearly 15 percent of the House sits on our committee. At the same time, our relative level of resources--both in terms of staff positions and funding allocated to the committee reflects our fiscally conservative operations.

The HASC has always been a flat and lean organization. Other than the Agriculture Committee, the HASC has the lowest Member to staff ratio of 1 to 1.15. The Armed Services Committee ranked eleventh in overall funding during the 111th Congress. And between the 104th and 111th Congresses, our committee ranked 12th in the amount of funding growth in comparison to all committees.

As you can see, we have long been accustomed to delivering results with limited resources. During the last Congress, our bipartisan staff helped us conduct 185 hearings, and given the significant national security challenges of our time we look to continue this pace in the 112th Congress. Our staff also will ensure that we

maintain our decades-long tradition and deliver our 50th consecutive National Defense Authorization Act.

The Committee has maintained this record of annual performance while maintaining our unique bipartisan approach with a unified staff, within which Mr. Smith controls fifteen slots. For purposes of all committee operations--pay, equipment, travel, training, supplies, office space, parking, etc.—Mr. Smith's staff is treated in exactly the same manner as the rest of the staff. Any increases in staff and budget will be shared with our minority partners. Our staff works together on virtually all matters, including preparing this budget request.

To ensure the Armed Services Committee can fulfill its substantial oversight responsibilities while retaining a

technically competent and professional staff, the current budget proposal requires us to temporarily limit hiring to only 68 of the 71 slots allocated to the committee. The Armed Services Committee professional staff members are each highly skilled in a particular aspect of our nation's security activities and all must obtain and maintain security clearances. Attracting and retaining these skilled professionals is a significant risk to the committee under this budget.

Over the course of the 112th Congress, we are requesting $7.5 million in 2011 and $7.5 million in 2012. To put this into perspective, I would ask you to consider this: even if your committee gave the Armed Services Committee some relief from the 5% cut, our committee would **STILL** rank lower than the spending levels of nine

other committees in the 112th Congress, despite having more members than any other committee and overseeing our military in two wars.

I understand these are challenging budgetary times. But this committee has always been a very cost-effective investment for oversight and quality legislation. Any further reduction to the HASC budget, beyond the proposed 5 percent, would serious degrade our ability to complete our mission. Thank you for your time, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to answer questions once Mr. Smith has completed his statement.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Smith.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. ADAM SMITH, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I concur with the Chairman's remarks. The 5 percent cut, we understand the situation with our budget. Certainly, it is appropriate to try to find savings wherever we can throughout the government, within the legislative branch as well. It should be no exception. As Mr. McKeon indicated, our committee does do some fairly important work. We have over 50 percent of the discretionary budget, and our prime responsibility is the national security of the country, and the staff is absolutely critical to that. The knowledge that they bring with the DOD process enables us to work with the Department of Defense, better understand their processes, and I think the chairman would agree with me that without our staff, we would be in a world of hurt. So we need as many of them as we can.

That said, on both the minority and the majority side, we have made the requisite cuts in staffing to accommodate that level and we can live within that current level and we are hoping that the 5 percent level is what we stay at.

And with that, I am happy to support Mr. McKeon in answering any questions that you have.

[The statement of Mr. Smith of Washington follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ADAM SMITH
RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

March 1, 2011

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brady, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to join my Chairman and friend, Buck McKeon, to testify today on the funding needs of the Committee on Armed Services.

I fully support the budget request presented to you by the Chairman. It seeks to balance our continued commitment to fiscal responsibility with our responsibility to oversee national security and provide for our men and women of the Armed Services. We believe that this budget will provide the resources necessary to oversee a military engaged in two wars and do so with a nearly 800,000 dollar reduction from the 111th Congress. This cut extends across both the majority and minority staffs and it reflects our continued effort to do more with less.

Threats to our national security remain high and increase in complexity. Our men and women in uniform must possess and execute all necessary authorities and resources to meet these threats and adapt to new ones as they emerge. Unfortunately, we do not have unlimited resources. As our nation and this Congress look to address the growing national deficit, this Congress, and in particular, the Armed Services Committee, must ensure that we are spending defense dollars wisely. Simply spending more on defense does not make us safer – spending money wisely and effectively does.

Our committee continues to operate under sound fiscal policy. From the 111th to the 112th, our committee's membership remains at 62 members. With the changes to the other committees we are now the largest committee in the House. However, because we have always operated with a modest number of highly-skilled staff, our ratio of staff to Members remains the second lowest in the House. Further, our policy to work in a unified approach continues to serve us well. As the Chairman mentioned, this request was done in a bipartisan manner that

demonstrates our commitment to work together to provide effective oversight in a cost-effective manner.

I control fifteen minority staff slots. For purposes of all benefits, overhead costs, and committee operations, the minority staff is treated in exactly the same manner as the rest of the staff. As is our long standing tradition, should there be any staff increases, they will be shared with the minority. And as for reductions, let me just say that reducing oversight staff will not save money. We need a robust staff to oversee the 671 billion dollar defense budget and fewer congressional eyes on that budget will most certainly cost money in the long run.

It is our duty to provide for our men and women in uniform as they perform their duties in defense of our nation. At the same time, we owe the American people our best efforts to find savings and efficiencies in defense spending. The committee's budget request supports these objectives in a diligent and fiscally disciplined manner.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 124

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Armed Services in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Mr. MCKEON (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Washington) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Armed Services in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Armed Services (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $15,050,528.00 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $7,525,264.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $7,525,264.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

○

The CHAIRMAN. How are you allocating resources between majority and minority.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. We share it.

Mr. MCKEON. Our committee has a longstanding policy of bipartisanship. And we just share our, a lot of people we share. A lot of the people that we use, they are all professional people, and so when we lost the majority many years ago, they hired some of the people we had and we have done the same thing this time because these people are not political, for the most part. They are professional people, former military people, people that have a great deal of experience in the defense area. And so we are able to work that out.

The CHAIRMAN. So Mr. Smith, you are satisfied with the way that works out?

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Yes, very much so. I have been here for, switched both ways. And as Mr. McKeon indicated, the bulk of the staff, you know, they are not partisan, they are professional. And the bulk of the staff just flips over from working for the Democrats to working for the Republicans, which they did. But then on the minority side, we do have our own staff. Previously we have had, I think it was 15 staffers. Now with the cuts we are down to 13. But the minority has a staff that it can work with. But the budget is simply blended together, and we have both had the experience of being in both the majority and the minority, so the minority rights are respected within the budget process, which I think works quite well. I know most, if not all of the committees just split it two-thirds, one-third and then do whatever they want with it. By blending our budget, we are much better able to work together, and I think also better able to save money and get efficiencies out of what we spend.

The CHAIRMAN. Picking up on that last statement, both Democrats and Republicans have said that defense should not be sacrosanct, even though it is our most important, at least from my standpoint, our most important responsibility.

We need to take a careful look at spending. Do you have the staff that will allow you to do the oversight of the Pentagon to help the rest of us in Congress to be able to do that kind of tough-eye looking at spending?

Mr. MCKEON. That will be one of the problems. We do have an oversight subcommittee, and we expect a lot from them. But, frankly, we are undermanned, as being the largest committee and having the great responsibility of almost half of the spending that we can account for.

The CHAIRMAN. So you are the largest committee by membership of the Members of the House, but not by staff?

Mr. MCKEON. No, by membership. No, our committee is not the largest staff. We are a unique committee.

I am on the Education Committee also. And we have two anterooms, you know, and you don't dare trespass. We use one anteroom. We come in together when we are here all day long and marking up our bill, it generally goes till about midnight. We eat together, we work together and we have a unique relationship.

We are getting by. We could use more. We could use the additional three people that were allotted. But we understand the situation.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. And you correctly identified the most important issue, and that is, having the staff to oversee the budget. And I think our staff does an outstanding job. It is an enormous budget over at the Department of Defense. But I know on many programs, it has been our professional staff that have been the first ones to notice areas where savings can be achieved, or where programs have gone off the beam and need to be reined in. And they have been instrumental in many programs, most notably on the future combat systems program which had a series of problems, many of which were first identified by HASC staff, so they play a critical role, and I think, you know, certainly I agree with the chairman that you can't have too many of those people. We are pretty satisfied with what we have. But it is going to stretch us a little thin this time to make sure that we can do that oversight effectively.

The CHAIRMAN. Okay. Mr. Brady.

Mr. BRADY. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I must be one of the most fortunate ones in Congress. I have the opportunity of serving on both committees that are extremely bipartisan and friendly, with my chairman and my ranking member do get along, the whole committee gets along well. And as my chairman said, we do eat and mingle together, and I would just put a request in for a little better food. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. I didn't know they had food in their budget. We have got to take a look at that. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. I appreciate what each of you do. It is such an important committee. And we want to make sure you have the appropriate resources.

But understanding that we are also in a bit of a jam when it comes to the money that is available to us, and of course, looking at the budget for the 111th, that was an 8.4 percent increase over the 110th Congress. So we, with this 5 percent cut, we are still above what the 110th level was.

Do you anticipate the ability if we need to, at the end of this term, going into the 113th Congress, the ability to save even more money? Do you believe, Chairman McKeon, that you could find additional savings through the next 2 years?

Mr. MCKEON. If we are asked to or told to we will find the savings. But, as you know, just as with your committee, most of our budget is people. And I don't see where we could go any further without reducing, again, more people. And that reduces us, it eliminates or cuts down our ability to do oversight and to fully man the things that we do. We are, right now, in the middle of the hearings process for our bill that we have passed every year for the last 49 years, and it is a major undertaking. On the Education Committee, for instance, we have lots of jurisdictions, almost like two committees. And we have certain bills to reauthorize. If you don't get them done, you just don't get them done. You do it the next Congress or the next Congress and things really lag.

We don't have that opportunity. We have to pass a bill every year, and it takes—we just finished a hearing this morning with

the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of the Naval Operations, Commandant of the Marines. And we have two more of those hearings scheduled for this week. Then we move into the combatant commanders which will start on Thursday. And there are lots, and then we are also doing that at subcommittee, so it takes a lot of people to staff all of these hearings and to make sure that we have the adequate preparation to go into them.

So again, if we are told to cut, we will cut. I mean, if we got down to, like Mr. Jefferson had one secretary and he said don't worry too much because I do all my own correspondence, I guess we could get to that point. But I hope we don't have to.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, if I could throw in on that remark. I think it would be very difficult to cut further where we are at. And the salient point, as my staff pointed out to me, we are the largest committee in terms of members. We have the second lowest ratio of staff for those members. So further cuts would be difficult.

In addition to the budget points that were made earlier, the sheer size of what we do, necessity every year of passing the defense authorization budget so that we can do the oversight we need to do over DOD spending and not simply turn it over to the administration and their budget.

So we are stretched pretty thin at the moment, and we can absorb the cuts but we would not want to go much lower than that. It would make it very difficult to do the job that we are asked to do.

Mr. HARPER. Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, thank you for the important work you do. With that I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. Chairman and ranking member, I appreciate you being here today. Obviously, Armed Services is, that is a priority of government is protection of our people. That is our core mission, one of our core missions. We just want to make sure that you have the ability to do oversight and be robust in your oversight to make sure that we are getting everything that we need to get in regards to the protection of this country, but in particularly, as we start looking at force reductions that have been talked about 2015, I want to make sure that we remember that the troops on the ground are imperative, that we take care of them and make sure that they have the equipment they need and the oversight to make sure that they are taken care of from their commanders on the ground, which I believe they are.

But your position is paramount in regards to the United States of America retaining its independence across the board, because we have so many threats out there, some that we don't even know about today. But you are charged with the awesome responsibility of making sure that our Armed Services are prepared, that they have the equipment that is necessary, that they have the proper oversight to make sure that we can afford what we need to do in the coming years. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank you. We have votes on. Let me just say this: That we did carry through on the 5 percent cut on all committees. Actually, Judiciary ended up with a larger cut because they had extra money for impeachment proceedings last year, but it is

5 percent across the board. But one of the things I have tried to point out is that if we are going to do true oversight and control the big spending in the government, which is the executive branch, we need to have the people, we need to have attention to do it. And that is particularly so in your bailiwick because we know what large portion of the budget comes out of the Defense Department, how important that is that we spend our money wisely.

So I thank you for being able to absorb these cuts. I understand what you are saying about the question of effectiveness. And we are very cognizant of that. And we appreciate the bipartisan nature of your committee, both before your chairmanship, Mr. McKeon, and since that time. And if no others have questions, we will be happy to let you go. And I would just announce that we will resume with the next committee, which is Small Business. It is scheduled—immediately following the votes.

[Recess.]

Mr. HARPER [presiding]. We are ready to start back. And I want to thank you, Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Velázquez for being here and going through this process with us. This is an important exercise for the Committee on House Administration where we address our oversight of the committees' budgets for the House of Representatives. We appreciate the work you do and appreciate what everybody has done to try to work within the budget restraints that we have. And we look forward to hearing from both of you. And we will start with Chairman Graves.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. SAM GRAVES, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Mr. GRAVES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to present the budget before the committee for the 112th Congress. On the Small Business Committee, we have got a lot of work to do, and we have adopted a very aggressive and comprehensive oversight plan to examine the value and efficiency of government programs that are designed to assist small businesses, as well as look at the regulatory and paperwork burdens that have been placed on small businesses by the various Federal agencies.

While the importance and volume of the committee's work is anticipated to be great, we are presenting a budget request of $6.874 million, which is 5 percent less than the funding authorized in the 111th Congress. Ranking Member Velázquez's office has provided us with their projections, and while we are not able to fully fund all of their anticipated expenses, the minority is going to have full control over one-third of the committee's budget. The ranking member gave us the very same opportunity before, and we want to extend that right back.

A large portion of our budget is going to be spent on personnel to ensure that we have the caliber of staff to do the significant oversight work that we have planned, as well as the staff to do the outreach work which is going to be outside Washington. And this is an important component to our plan. We are going to be doing a lot of field hearings and not only field hearings, but listening sessions, and town hall meetings outside of Washington. I don't think government can be effective unless you go out and you listen to what people have to say. And particularly given the state of the

economy right now, small businesses are going to be what leads us out of this recession or into economic recovery. And we need to go out and hear what they have to say. So the increase in the travel budget reflects this priority as well.

In line with the goals of transparency and communication beyond the beltway, we anticipate some additional technology needs that are going to allow us to stream video via the Internet and better capture information from small businessmen and women who wish to offer their feedback.

But otherwise, the budget will remain fairly flat and we have reviewed the expenses in the last Congress, and we have made a few minor adjustments.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to be brief because we are getting a little bit of a late start. But I appreciate the consideration of our request and turn to Ranking Member Velázquez.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you very much, Chairman Graves.

[The statement of Mr. Graves follows:]

Statement of
The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman, House Committee on Small Business
Hearing on Committee Funding
House Committee on Administration, Washington, DC
March 1, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to present the budget request of the Committee on Small Business for the 112th Congress.

It is an honor to have the opportunity to lead the Committee on Small Business at a critical time for our nation's economic recovery. In our nation's history, it has always been small business that has been the engine of innovation, job creation, and economic growth. It is critical that we create an environment that allows small businesses to thrive and fulfill this important role in our economy. However, the expansion of government in recent years and corresponding regulatory activity present additional hurdles that threaten to stifle small business creation, survival, and growth.

The Small Business Committee has a lot of work to do. We have adopted an aggressive and comprehensive oversight plan to examine the value and efficiency of government programs designed to assist small business as well as the regulatory and paperwork burdens placed on small businesses by numerous Federal departments and agencies. Today, small businesses are paying more than $10,000 per employee to comply with Federal regulations – this is simply unacceptable. The Committee will also examine our nation's tax, health care, energy, and trade policies to determine the impact on small business and how we can do better.

The Committee's work will not be limited to hearings in Washington. We plan to do a significant amount of work in the communities where small business men and women are doing their work. Not only will we conduct field hearings, but the committee will also hear from small businesses through roundtables and provide services to small businesses through educational events that give them information and tools to succeed.

Further, I commend the Speaker for his support of the committee structure in the House and his intent to rely on committees to do the legislative work they were designed to do. In the 112th Congress, committees will be more active than ever and the result will be greater deliberation and transparency in the legislative process. The Committee on Small Business anticipates significant legislative activity around SBA programs, federal contracting, and regulatory reform.

While the importance and volume of the Committee's work is anticipated to be great, we are presenting a budget request of $6.874 million, which is 5 percent less than the funding authorized in the 111th Congress. Ranking Member Velazquez's office has provided us with their projections, and while we are not able to fully fund all anticipated expenses, the minority will have ***full*** control over one-third of the Committee's budget.

A large portion of our budget will be spent on personnel to ensure we have the caliber of staff to do the significant oversight work we have planned, as well as the staff to do the outreach work outside of Washington that is an important component of our plan. An increase in the travel budget reflects this priority as well.

In line with the goals of transparency and communication beyond the beltway, we anticipate some additional technology needs that will allow us to stream video via the Internet and better capture information from small business men and women who wish to offer their feedback and ideas.

Otherwise, our budget will remain fairly flat. We have reviewed the expenses in the last Congress, which were modest in nature, and we have made minor adjustments.

Overall, I believe the Committee is offering a reasonable, rational budget that will allow us to implement our plans to create the most hospitable environment for small businesses to thrive and create jobs for America's workers.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee for your consideration of this request. I am pleased to take any questions.

Mr. HARPER. And now we will hear from Ranking Member Velázquez. Thank you for being here today.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, ranking member, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to discuss the budget submission for the Small Business Committee in the 112th Congress. It would be hard to overstate the role of small businesses in our economy. They represent 99 percent of all employers. One in three American gets their first job at a small business. Two out of every three new jobs originates with a small business.

Small firms are the job creators, leading in all areas, exports, manufacturing and technology. They take risks, develop innovative products, enter new markets and keep America positioned as a global economic leader.

Most of all, during downturns, it has been the small business firms that lead our Nation toward recovery. The mission of the Small Business Committee is not only to support small firms, it is also to act as their voice so that Federal agencies are more sensitive to entrepreneurs' needs.

On that front, over the last 2 years, the committee has held 75 hearings on a wide range of oversight issues. We also drafted 36 bills, 12 of which became law. Taken together, our oversight and legislative workload is compatible to that performed by committees with budgets three times larger than ours.

The difference is that we help create jobs, and whether or not we have a different opinion regarding the government role, it is, in fact, important that we provide that voice to small businesses, as was stated by Mr. Graves.

I recognize our committee has long operated with fewer resources than most committees. However, I am concerned about whether this budget will allow Chairman Graves and myself to meet all the commitments to our members and, more importantly, provide small businesses the support and advocacy they deserve.

Just 4 years ago this committee received the smallest funding of any other, only 3.3 percent more than was allocated 18 years ago during the 103rd Congress. Given how long the committee has been underfunded, I am concerned this budget may not be sufficient at a time when we should be maximizing small business job creation potential.

Mr. Chairman, our committee is bipartisan. I have always enjoyed working with Mr. Graves. I think we share the belief that on our committee, there are no Democrat issues, no Republican issues. There are small business issues. Together, we will ensure that the Small Business Committee remains equally productive and active as previous years.

Certainly, there are different views, but rest assured, Chairman Graves and I can set aside our differences to focus on what is important, supporting American small businesses so they can grow and create new jobs.

With that, I thank you, and I appreciate your time, and I am willing to entertain any questions that you may have.

[The statement of Ms. Velázquez follows:]

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 119

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Small Business in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Small Business in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Small Business (in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $6,874,000.00 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $3,214,891.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $3,659,109.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

○

Mr. HARPER. Thank you both. And I guess what I want to make sure, with the cuts that we have had and going back 5 percent, looking at the numbers, I will ask each of you if you have the funding that you need to implement your oversight responsibilities as a committee. Chairman Graves.

Mr. GRAVES. I think we do, and we are certainly going to try. And you know, the fact of the matter is we don't have any money. The government doesn't have any money. We are broke. And so I think we have to do everything we can, obviously, to try to do better than other areas of government obviously. And I think that is the reason all the committees are trying to cut back and do a good job with what we have. And I think we can do that.

We have obviously made some priority adjustments, and we are doing some different things in terms of reaching out when it comes to technology and when it comes, obviously to the personnel we need. And we are obviously going through a transition. The ranking member is moving to the minority role and obviously the majority, we are moving to the majority role. And so there are some adjustments that are going to take place. But I think we can do it. We have gone over real carefully the budget, and I think we are going to be able to meet our obligations.

Again, as the Ranking Member pointed out, we have always been the least funded committee in Congress. And I think we have always done a good job, and we are going to try to continue that reputation of doing a good job and advocating for small business and try to do it with less.

Mr. HARPER. Ranking Member Velázquez, your comments on your funding availability to do your oversight responsibility.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Well, Mr. Chairman, I am going to be the bad cop here. I disagree with the chairman. I am trying to be helpful. The 5 percent reduction will not help. And in my testimony I raise concerns that the 5 percent reduction will not enable the committee to meet its commitments. And a big part of this is going to be its oversight mission.

During the 111th Congress, we held 15 oversight hearings on fraud, waste, abuse, which included three on GAO investigations.

A 5 percent cut is approximately $400,000, which, when compared to the $97 billion awarded through SBA's contracting programs is small potatoes. So, Mr. Chairman, I really believe that, given the fact that this committee is important, it might not be Ways and Means, it is not Energy and Commerce, it is not the Appropriations Committee, but at a time when the economy continues to struggle, this committee is an important voice for small businesses.

Members will be contacting us regarding issues faced by their small business firms in their district. They will be asking us to hold field hearings and to deal with specific issues regarding the Federal marketplace and Federal contractors from their own districts. So I will ask that you assess if this is the appropriate time for this committee, given the fact that we have received the smallest funding to cut 5 percent more.

Mr. HARPER. And I would point out that the amount with the 5 percent cut still puts you significantly over the level of funding for this committee in the 110th. So I know it is going to be difficult,

but these are difficult times with the lack of money here in Washington. And with that, I will recognize Ranking Member Brady for any questions he may have.

Mr. BRADY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You do the one-third/two-thirds split is still done the same exact way?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. That is correct.

Mr. BRADY. So you are trying to be helpful. You are trying to get $130,000 for the Democrats and get $270,000 back to the Republicans. That is good nonpartisanship.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. That is right.

Mr. BRADY. Unfortunately, we are still trying to wrestle with this here. We do understand, the committee I started off is Small Business. And we do understand that you are the lowest funded committee and some things may happen, who knows. If they do, we will take it under advisement. And I thank the chairman and the ranking member for being here today. Thank you.

Mr. HARPER. At this time, I will recognize the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. Gingrey.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, thank you. And I thank the chairman and ranking member of the Small Business Committee for testifying, my good friends, Mr. Graves and Ms. Velázquez. A lot of the questions are sort of standard for each of the committees that come before us in regard to their budget in the 112th. And obviously, you have referenced the 5 percent cut, and there is a little bit of difference of opinion in regard to how much drain the two of you feel that that will have on the committee as far as doing your work.

Let me direct my question first to Ms. Velázquez. Are there any particular priorities of the committee that you think will be most difficult to meet because of the funding cut? Give me some examples of areas where you just really feel like the committee needs to do some work and may not be able to.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Well, oversight is very important, and especially given the fact that we have $97 billion awarded through SBA contracting programs. There are some issues we are aware of that are related to poor management and a lack of oversight from within the agency; fraud in the HUBZone program, fraud in the service-Disabled veteran-owned Contracting program, problems regarding the administration of the disaster program.

So, look, this is very important. And if we don't have the resources, if there is a disaster again in our country, I hope it will not happen, but we have to make sure that those programs are working the way they need to be working in order to assist at any given moment.

Mr. GINGREY. Well, thank you. In the little bit of time I have got left, before I yield to one of my other colleagues I wanted to ask of the chairman. Chairman Graves, the Small Business Committee probably has, I am guessing at this now, just intuition, more field hearings maybe than a lot of other committees. And if that is correct, do you foresee that you will be able to continue to do the level of reaching out to the communities, small business men and women across the country, and not just in your two respective districts, but to fulfill that very important function of having field hearings.

Mr. GRAVES. Well, we plan to do a lot more than there were before. And again, that goes back to going out and listening to what people have to say. I don't think Washington can be very responsive just staying in Washington. And its members, I think it is important to go out and hear what their small business owners have to say. We are going to do quite a little bit of travel. That is what we have planned. When it comes to field hearings. Not just field hearings, I intend to do listening sessions or town hall meetings when it comes to small businesses, and many things like that.

And I think we are going to be able to do that. Obviously we have reallocated a lot of the budget to that, to be able to do that. And that is what we are going to—you know, that is what we intend to do, and hopefully we will be able to do that. And we will be able to come back next year and tell you if we were successful or not.

Mr. GINGREY. We look forward to that report. And, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you. And I now recognize the gentleman from Indiana, Congressman Rokita.

Mr. ROKITA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you both for being with us today. What other parts of the Federal Government bureaucracy, what other Federal agencies do you have jurisdiction over besides the SBA?

Mr. GRAVES. We have obviously oversight or legislative jurisdiction over SBA, but we have jurisdiction for——

Mr. ROKITA. Oversight.

Mr. GRAVES. Jurisdiction over anything that touches small businesses. In fact, we have got one of the widest jurisdictions possible even though we have a fairly limited, you know, legislative——

Mr. ROKITA. Have you noticed waste, fraud and abuse, Mr. Chairman, in other bureaucracies besides SBA?

Mr. GRAVES. Well, obviously, in SBA there are a lot of problems, to be quite honest with you. The SBA does some things very, very well, but they obviously do some things not very well. And we also see that in other areas. Overall, if you look at contracting, which is an issue we have been very active in, in contract bundling, whether it is the Defense Department or whatever agency it happens to be, there are a lot of problems with that in not giving small businesses the opportunity to be able to participate, being more, you know, favorable obviously to larger businesses or bundling those contracts up so larger businesses have a better opportunity. But that is a problem throughout, government, and not paying attention to some of those programs, you know, that the government is supposed to be paying attention to when it comes to various aspects or various businesses, depending on the individual who might own that small business. So there are a lot of problems throughout the Federal Government when it comes to where we can be.

Mr. ROKITA. We are all tasked with oversighting those on our various committees. Ranking Member Velázquez, how many staff members are on the committee, not just your part, for both of you or the total committee, two-thirds and the one-third, how many staff members are we talking about?

Mr. GRAVES. There are 28 on our side.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Ten on our side.

Mr. ROKITA. So about 38 or 40 people.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. You asked him a question. And based on my own experience——

Mr. ROKITA. I am just running out of time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ [continuing]. Just now its contracting throughout the Federal Government over which we have jurisdiction. Also, the Regulatory Flexibility Act. So we deal with any regulations coming out of any Federal agency. We have to make sure that they do hearings and we seek comments from small businesses so that we prevent unintended consequences that would impact negatively small businesses.

Mr. ROKITA. Thank you very much for that. So the 38 personnel staff members, is there anything you are noticing that you can do to re-tweak or tweak how the org chart looks or the type of people you are hiring in order to do your oversight mission better than maybe it has been in the past? Are you lopsided clerical, are you lopsided investigatorywise, investigatory staffwise? Have you looked at how you can remodel the committee staff?

Mr. GRAVES. Well, we obviously have the advantage of getting to start almost from scratch because we are ramping up completely. And so we are putting most of our emphasis obviously on investigators. And we are going to be putting—that is where we are doing the bulk of our hiring. Then also in technology. Again, and I talked about earlier, we are doing live streaming of our hearings and being able to solicit input from small businesses all over the country. So we are putting a lot of emphasis too on the technology aspect. But the biggest change is probably in investigation.

Mr. ROKITA. So the 38 members, the staff members, how many will be investigators?

Mr. GRAVES. Ten on our side.

Mr. ROKITA. And the rest will be classified as what, clerical, press?

Mr. GRAVES. Professional, press, managing the technology aspect of it, which takes more and more, unfortunately today, than it used to.

Mr. ROKITA. I yield back. Thank you very much, both of you.

Mr. HARPER. At this time I will recognize the gentleman from Florida, Congressman Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and ranking member for being here. Going back to oversight, and I want to make sure that I understand this, the ranking member, you brought up that you are afraid that oversight will suffer with a budget cut. How many—what do you base that on? I mean, is it the number of staff that you are moving away from investigations?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Well, in order to keep track with exercising the oversight role of our committee, you need to have staff, professional staff that is well versed in the area of procurement. On my end, we have lost some of the staff that have the experience, the knowledge, and the training. But we are dealing here with $97 billion in contracting procurement. So that is a big chunk of contracts. And we need to have the resources to do the type of investigation, the type of research that is required in order to make sure that the Federal agencies are policing themselves in terms of procurement

and contract awards are given to those that are qualified as small businesses.

We have done so many investigations that show us that while they claim that they are achieving their contracting goals required by the statute, they have been misquoting big businesses and small businesses, and in the end, small businesses are the ones suffering. So we will not be able to discover that type of action if we don't have the staff that are doing the research and keeping track with all the thousands and thousands of awards, contracting awards, that are generated by the Federal Government.

Mr. NUGENT. You had mentioned earlier that there were specific areas that you recognize where there is fraud and abuse. I would hope that as you have limited resources, and I have experience with investigations, that when you have limited resources, you target those that you think are the biggest offenders, those that obviously have the largest dollar effect as it relates to impacting the Federal Government and particularly small businesses.

So I would hope, you know, through this restructure, and it is painful, we certainly recognize that, and we are asking every committee to do more with less. So you know, it is all about priorities and prioritization. And obviously you know your committee sets that tone in regards to where that priority should be. And particularly with your vast experience in small business that you should have the ability to help them, you know, laser in on those areas, particularly the low hanging ones that you can get easily and then move on to those that are more difficult. Thank you.

Mr. HARPER. Thank each of you for being here. Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Velázquez, thank you for your time today. We appreciate the important work that you both do.

Thank you, Chairman King, Ranking Member Thompson. I appreciate you both being here and the important work you do on your committee. And we appreciate you taking the time to be with us as we fulfill our obligation to do oversight on the committee budgets for the House of Representatives. And we look forward to hearing from both of you. And Chairman King, we will recognize you now.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. PETER KING, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. KING. Thank you, Chairman Harper, Ranking Member Brady, members of the committee. First of all, thanks for giving Ranking Member Thompson and I the opportunity to testify here today. In fact, this marks the fourth Congress where Ranking Member Thompson and I will be working together. It is my second time around as chairman. He had two very distinguished terms as chairman. And probably I don't know if there is any other committee in Congress, despite certain philosophical differences we might have, where we work more closely together and we really keep partisanship to an absolute minimum. We realize that homeland security is national security. And Ranking Member Thompson and I, and hopefully all the members of our committee share the common mission to keep our country safe.

Now, we have reduced the budget by 5 percent pursuant to legislative direction. The budget into the next 2 years will be $8,443,000

in 2011 and the same amount for 2012. And this will support the committee's oversight responsibilities, staff salaries, operating expenses. The ranking member and I intend to do more with less. And we also continue the customary division of two-thirds/one-third between the majority and the minority offices.

Mr. Chairman, at the first committee hearing we had on February 9th, Secretary Napolitano said the terrorist threat to our Nation is at its most heightened state since the terrorist acts of September 11th. Just last week we saw Khalid Aldawsari, a Saudi student who is studying in Texas being arrested and charged with intent to bomb the home of former President Bush, various targets in New York City, nuclear reactors, other recent attacks emanating from the U.S. from having a U.S. involvement, or the Time Squares bomber Faisal Shahzad; the Fort Hood terrorist, Major Hasan; the Little Rock Recruiting Center Shooter Carlos Bledsoe; the New York City subway bomber, Najibullah Zazi; the Mumbai plotter, David Headley; Colleen LaRose, known as Jihad Jane; and also other members from Minnesota involved with Al-Shabaab.

So we have, as our main priority, is to counter the serious and evolving threats facing our country. Since the committee was first formed as a Select Committee back in 2003, the nature of the threat has changed. At that time it was primarily al Qaeda operating out of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Now it is morphed, and spread into Yemen, other parts of the Middle East, and now also Secretary Napolitano and NCTC Director Michael Leiter have said there is a threat of home-grown terrorism.

So the committee priorities will be domestic radicalization, operational control of the border, strengthening our Nation's cyber security. And in fact, Chairman Lungren is actually the chairman of the subcommittee dealing with cyber security. We have to improve cargo security, interoperable communications for our Nation's first responders, ensuring our homeland security grants are effective and risk-based, and also passing an authorization bill for the Department of Homeland Security. We also conduct oversight of homeland security programs and policies.

Thursday of this week, Secretary Napolitano will be making a second appearance, this time to testify on the President's budget request. We are going to have field hearing site visits throughout the country. And again, most of the work will be done in a very bipartisan way. So anyway, I appreciate, and I think Ranking Member Thompson certainly appreciates the support of the Committee on House Administration for our mission, and we look forward to working with you. And thanks for the opportunity to testify. And I will be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you Chairman King.

[The statement of Mr. King follows:]

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN PETER T. KING
Committee on Homeland Security

Before the
Committee on House Administration

Hearing on "Committee Funding for the 112th Congress"
March 1, 2011

Thank you Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee on House Administration for the opportunity to testify in support of funding for the Committee on Homeland Security in the 112th Congress.

This marks the fourth Congress where Ranking Member Thompson and I will be working together, including in implementation of the Committee's budget. On January 26th, The Committee held its Organization Meeting during which we adopted with bipartisan support the Committee's Rules, Oversight Plan, Travel Policy, and Security Policy. Committee Members have historically worked together because Members recognize that "homeland security is national security," and we share the common mission to keep our country safe. When we have policy or philosophical differences, we have been able to come to an amicable resolution, and, if not, to express our differences in a cordial way, because we know the extent of the threat our Nation faces.

On January 6, 2011, the Full House passed *House Resolution 22, Reducing the Amount Authorized for Salaries and Expenses of Member, Committee, and Leadership Offices in 2011 and 2012.* By an overwhelming vote of 410-13, House members approved a binding resolution that would reduce the operating budgets of Member, Leadership, and committee offices by five percent, or about $35 million annually.

After prior consultation with Ranking Member Thompson, we adjusted the budget of the Committee on Homeland Security for the Majority and Minority offices to fully meet this budget reduction. We also continue to follow the Committee's customary 2/3 – 1/3 division of funding between the Majority and Minority offices.

Therefore, we propose a budget of $16,887,448.00 for the 112th Congress, which includes $8,443,724.00 for 2011 and the same amount for 2012. This amount will support the Committee's oversight responsibilities, staff salaries, and operating expenses.

Ranking Member Thompson and I intend to do more with less, and the Committee will continue to pursue its aggressive agenda to help keep our Nation safe from future terrorist attacks.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11th, we are constantly reminded that terrorists continue plotting to kill Americans, at home and abroad. We were reminded again last week when a 20-year-old Saudi national, Khalid Aldawsari, studying in

Texas was charged by the FBI with intent to use a weapon of mass destruction. His targets included New York City and the home of former President George W. Bush. His Arabic language diary stated he was inspired by Osama bin Laden and the 9/11 attacks. This case is serious, and without the quick thinking of employees at a chemical company who became suspicious and alerted authorities, he may have been able to execute a devastating attack on our homeland.

When Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano testified before the Committee on February 9th, she stated that the terrorist threat to our Nation is at its most "heightened state" since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

According to Attorney General Eric Holder, in the last two years, prior to last week's arrest, there have been 126 indictments for terrorist related activity, including 50 U.S. citizens. They include: Times Square Bomber Faisal Shahzad; Fort Hood Terrorist U.S. Army Major Nidal Hasan; Little Rock Recruiting Center Shooter Carlos Bledsoe; New York City Subway bomber Najibullah Zazi; Mumbai Plotter David Headley; Colleen LaRose, known as "Jihad Jane;" and dozens of individuals in Minneapolis associated with the Somali terrorist organization, Al-Shabaab, including U.S. citizens who took part in suicide-bombing operations.

Because of policies the U.S. has implemented since September 11, the threat from Al Qaeda has evolved, but it is still deadly. In addition to the continuing threat from Al Qaeda Core in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, our Nation faces threats from groups affiliated with Al Qaeda, including: Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP); Al-Shabaab; Tehrik-i-Taliban, also known as the Pakistani Taliban; Lashkar-e-Taiba; and the Haqqani Network.

Therefore, the top priority for the Committee will be to counter the serious and evolving terrorist threats facing our country. Other Committee priorities include: supporting the intelligence community and law enforcement agencies in identifying and combating domestic radicalization; identifying what is necessary to achieve operational control of the border; overseeing the Administration's plans for Guantanamo detainees; improving cargo security on passenger planes and on cargo-only planes; strengthening our Nation's cyber security; improving communications for our Nation's first responders; ensuring homeland security grants are effective and risk-based; strengthening our defenses against terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction; conducting rigorous oversight of the Department of Homeland Security to ensure it is operating efficiently and cost-effectively; and passing a comprehensive authorization bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

To support the Committee in its work to combat the terrorist threat, we made a number of changes to its structure. These include: streamlining the subcommittees to sharpen their focus on major homeland security priorities; establishing a Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence; and creating a new Office of Counterterrorism at the Full Committee. We also have brought on board senior subject matter experts with real-world experience to support the Committee's counterterrorism work.

The Committee also will conduct extensive oversight of homeland security programs and policies. This Thursday, Secretary Napolitano will make her second appearance this year before

the Committee to testify on the President's Fiscal Year 2010 budget request. Also this month, the Committee will hold the first in a series of hearings on the threat of radicalization of individuals in the American Muslim community and the community's response.

To conduct rigorous oversight of homeland security programs, the Committee will organize field hearings and site visits throughout the country. Topics include: security along the southwest and northern borders; strengthening our Nation's defenses against a cyber attack; local emergency preparedness efforts; fusion centers; and homeland security training facilities.

We appreciate the past support of Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee for the work and mission of the Committee on Homeland Security. I look forward to continuing to work with all Members of this Committee to strengthen our country's defenses against terrorist attacks.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

# # #

Mr. HARPER. Ranking Member Thompson.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. You look good in the chair. I support Chairman King in his presentation. Our committee, for the most part, has a reputation of being very bipartisan. When the enemy shows up, nine times out of 10, they won't ask party affiliation or anything like that, so it is clear that we need to get it right. In that respect, the proposed budget allocation of one-third two-thirds I am in agreement with. The 5 percent reduction, we have made the necessary adjustments in our budget so that we will meet it both this year and next year respectively.

Apart from that, Chairman King and I have probably worked together longer than any other chair and ranking people in Congress and we are still on speaking terms. So I think that speaks well for both of us. But in this respect, we have, in most instances, with respect to this committee made reasonable requests for budgets. We have not been one of those who just asks for money for money's sake. We respect the leadership's cut in the budget and will be willing to live within those suggested cuts. I yield back.

[The statement of Mr. Thompson follows:]

STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Committee on Homeland Security

Before the
Committee on House Administration

Hearing on "Committee Funding for the 112th Congress"
March 1, 2011

Thank you, Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of funding for the Committee on Homeland Security for the 112th Congress.

As Chairman King stated, this is our fourth Congress working together to ensure we do all we can to help keep our homeland secure in a bi-partisan manner, which includes the Committee's operational funding request that is before you. We have agreed to continue to follow the 1/3 – 2/3 division of funding between the Minority and Majority offices.

In accordance with House Resolution twenty-two, our funding request reflects a five percent decrease from the 111th Congress. Chairman King and I have agreed to evenly divide the allocation between the first and second sessions. These amounts will support the Committee's oversight responsibilities, staff salaries, travel, and operational expenses.

I second the Chairman in saying we appreciate the support of Chairman Lungren and Ranking Member Brady, along with all Members of the Committee on House Administration.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to come before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 122

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Homeland Security in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Mr. KING of New York (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Homeland Security in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Homeland Security (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $16,887,448.00 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $8,443,724.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $8,443,724.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

○

Mr. HARPER. Thank you. I will ask each of you if you have the funding necessary to implement your oversight responsibilities.

Mr. KING. Yes, I believe we do. Obviously, we have made adjustments in salary. But also I am trying to bring in people at no cost. For instance, the NYPD has assigned an inspector from the joint terrorist task force. He is going to be working full-time for the committee for the next 2 years as a fellow. The FBI, we have a supervisory special agent from the FBI detailed to us. I also plan to utilize other fellows and detailees from other Federal agencies. Such as the Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security. So we are making the most with what we have.

And again, it is easier for us. We are ramping up. It is a little tougher for the ranking member. But as Ranking Member Brady pointed out before, it is easier for the majority to adjust to these decreases, but we are doing it. And I am confident we can fulfill our mission. Because in many ways, the oversight we do is—obviously, if we find something that is wrong, something that is improper, it is going to be disclosed. But also, oversight as to whether or not the Department is carrying out its mission. As far as the various levels of security there has to be monitoring. And I believe we have the staff both in the majority and the minority to get it done. It will be a little easier for me than it will for Ranking Member Thompson.

Mr. HARPER. Ranking Member Thompson.

Mr. THOMPSON. It is a little more difficult being in the minority, but we will do it.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you both. And now I will recognize Ranking Member Brady for any questions he may have.

Mr. BRADY. Just to thank both of you for being here today. You do an excellent job keeping us safe. I appreciate that. I also take note that terrorists don't have a registration card and they don't show it, you know, I appreciate that. But one little question just for my own mind. On classified information, do you get the proper classified information that you do need from these other agencies? Do you share it, do they hold back? Beyond that question, at some point in time many years ago, there was a little bit of a problem with the other agencies sharing amongst themselves and sharing with our committee.

Mr. KING. Well, as far as the committee, the ranking member and I, we get regular briefings from the Intelligence Community. I think sometimes we feel perhaps we could be getting more than we are—you know, than we do. Maybe being a newer committee, we don't get all that we need. But I would say we get 95 percent of what we need and it is getting better each time.

As far as the sharing of intelligence within the Federal Government itself, it is light years better than it was back on September 10, 2001, but there is still, I think the ranking member would agree, there is still a ways to go. There is always going to be some divisions both at the Federal level between Federal and State, between State and local, as far as not always a full sharing. Somebody wanting to take credit for the case, somebody holding on to information. But it is light years ahead of where it was.

And I know when I was chairman and when Ranking Member Thompson was chairman, we worked together to try to bring about

as much sharing of information within the agencies or between the agencies and among the agencies, and also with our committee. And generally, I find whenever we ask for specific information we get it. Sometimes you have to pull out the information. But whenever we ask for it, I would say we get it.

Mr. THOMPSON. Chairman King is correct, there is still some stovepiping of intelligence, but if you probe hard enough you can get it. Our biggest challenge is jurisdiction. If we had the proper jurisdiction within this committee, then some of the issues that we do confront we can resolve. But given the fact that the only real jurisdiction we have 100 percent is oversight, everybody else is split between judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and so that makes it a little difficult. But the agencies have cooperated in most instances in providing the information we need.

Mr. BRADY. See, that 5 percent is the one that troubles me a little bit. That may be a major problem with the 5 percent. My point is that we do fund these agencies through our various committees, and I think that we should have some dialogue amongst them and make sure that they do share with you to do your job properly over these other agencies. It is not, you know, like you are getting hit, they are all getting hit, and then we can either be nice or not be nice and bring them in here. Not in this committee naturally, but the authorizing committees that have the authorization over them and make sure that that happens. I would be a little concerned about that.

Mr. KING. I don't want to leave the wrong impression. For the most part we get it. I think I am just being honest. There is a certain—for instance, I am also on the Intelligence Committee and I don't feel Homeland Security gets the same level of intelligence over time that the Intelligence Committee does now. The Intelligence Community is more used to dealing with the Intelligence Committee, and that may account for some of it. But again, the situation is getting better. It is much better than it was.

Mr. BRADY. My point is simple. I know you and I trust you and I know you and I trust you. I would like to trust them though on the same level. As long as they are trusting you, then we all can be on the same page for security, for again, for the safety of the American people. Thank you both. Thanks for coming in.

Mr. HARPER. At this time, I will recognize the gentleman from Georgia, Congressman Gingrey.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, thank you. And I thank Chairman King and Ranking Member Bennie Thompson for being here and testifying for us. I am going to ask kind of a naive question because I am sort of new on this and on the committee for the first time, so you all forgive me and bear with me. But I notice that in the salary on the majority staff side, there are 11 internship positions at $21,599 per intern. Tell me, is that kind of routine, has that been consistent over the years and how does that compare to internship salaries on other committees?

I am assuming these are full-time interns. I know we have some interns in my office, in my Member office, and I am sure they would be shocked to see these salaries for the interns and probably would be at my throat over it since we pay them nothing.

Mr. KING. That is the cap authorized by the House. I believe it was consistent under Ranking Member Thompson who was the chairman. And we get a lot of use out of these interns. Many of them are students who are majoring in homeland security or homeland security-type related subjects. And others who are maybe looking for another job, we have them in the meantime. And I find we get tremendous work out of the interns. I have always found it to be very productive on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. GINGREY. Ranking Member Thompson, how many hours a week on average would you say that these interns spend on the committee.

Mr. THOMPSON. Anywhere from 20 to 40. Sometimes they are placed there full-time from the university or college. Most of them tied to some professional program. One of the shortcomings we have in the area of homeland security is we don't have enough professionals in the area. One of the things Chairman King and I worked on a long time is we are trying to reduce the overreliance on outside contractors, and the only way we can do that is kind of put our own farm team together. And part of the way we do it is with the internship program.

Mr. KING. There is also many legal issues come up. We have law clerks working as interns. We actually had a firefighter who was on the payroll as an intern. He was assisting us. So we try to—again, there is very good use is made of them. And as the ranking member said, it is not—there is not a large pool out there of people in their 30s, 40s and 50s who have experience in homeland security. Basically it is a new science which has developed or a new field of study which has developed since September 11th. So many people we use are students, graduate students, people just out of colleges, universities.

Mr. GINGREY. What would you say the average age of these interns is?

Mr. KING. I would say early 20s, I guess.

Mr. GINGREY. 20s, 20-somethings? A lot of them college students?

Mr. KING. College students, graduate students or recent graduates.

Mr. GINGREY. I am sure there is a lot of value added to having them on board. A quick and dirty math, about $235,000 a year that you are paying for these interns. And I would think that it would make a difference whether they are working 20 hours a week or 40 hours a week. And that may be something you want to look at and have some consistency there in regard to how much time they spend and that you have equity in regard to what you are getting out of them. I have no other questions, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

Mr. HARPER. I just hope your interns aren't watching this hearing, Congressman Gingrey. At this time, I will recognize the gentleman from Florida, Congressman Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. I do not have any questions. I thank you for your work on homeland security. I have to take leave, but thank you very much.

Mr. HARPER. I would like to thank both of you for your time and the important work you are doing. Chairman King, Ranking Member Thompson, thank you.

Chairman Bonner, Ranking Member Sánchez, thank you for taking time to come here and discuss this and allowing us to do our job on the Committee on House Administration to make sure we provide our oversight of the committee budgets in the House of Representatives. And we are honored to have both of you here. And we look forward to hearing from both of you. And with that I will recognize you, Chairman Bonner.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JO BONNER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ALABAMA

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. I was going to say thank you to Chairman Lungren, but I will instead thank you, Acting Chairman Harper and Ranking Member Brady. We appreciate very much you and other members of the committee giving Ms. Sánchez and me an opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of the Ethics Committee and on behalf of the other eight members of which the acting chairman is one of our distinguished colleagues. Thank you on behalf of our committee for your service on this committee and to the institution as a whole.

I am privileged to serve along with the ranking member, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez and eight of our distinguished colleagues on what is a uniquely evenly divided Committee on Ethics, the only evenly divided committee in the House of Representatives. The committee is tasked in carrying out its duties in an impartial manner in order to provide a fair procedural framework for the committee's activities and to well serve the people of the United States, the House of Representatives, as well as the members, officers and employees of this institution.

We believe that the budget proposal before you will allow us to accomplish this mission. As you know, Mr. Chairman, our mission is a difficult and an important one. And there are no volunteers who serve on the Ethics Committee. The purpose and work of this committee is very important to the integrity of the institution. Moreover, the committee's core responsibilities include providing training, advice and education to House members, officers and employees, reviewing and approving requests to accept privately sponsored travel related to official duties, reviewing and certifying all financial disclosure reports that members, candidates and senior staff are required to file and investigating and adjudicating allegations of impropriety in violation of House ethics rules.

And to give you just an idea of the volume of the work of the committee that is accomplished in each Congress, let me share with you just a few remarkable numbers from the 111th Congress that just recently concluded. During this time, the Committee on Ethics issued more than 780 formal written advisory opinions, fielded thousands of informal telephone calls, e-mails and in-person requests for guidance on ethics issues, provided training to more than 10,000 House members, officers and employees each year, reviewed nearly 6,900 financial disclosure statements and reviewed more than 3,090 privately sponsored trip requests.

The committee also commenced or continued investigative fact-gathering regarding 111 separate investigative matters; received 13 referrals from the Office of Congressional Ethics, commonly known as OCE; resolved 75 investigative matters without taking formal

action; impaneled four investigative subcommittees; carried over and expanded one investigative subcommittee and completing that investigation through the investigative and adjudicatory phase as well as the sanction phase of a very public matter; fielded 12 reports with the House totaling more than 15,000 pages and authorized the issuance of 240 subpoenas, interviewing 140 witnesses and reviewing more than 55,300 pages of documents held through more than 70 investigative meetings.

As of December 31st of last year, there were at least 16 investigative matters still pending before the committee. Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, the budget proposal before you reflects a 5 percent or $308,858.45 cut to the committee's budget for 111th Congress. The committee received $6,177,169 in the 111th Congress. And the committee will gratefully receive $5,868,310.55 in the 112th Congress. But unlike other committee budgets, the large bulk of the committee expenses on the Committee on Ethics is personnel compensation. Mr. Chairman, I have some additional comments I would like to enter into the record to complete my statement, but I would like to conclude before I recognize——

Mr. HARPER. Without objection.

Mr. BONNER [continuing]. Before I recognize the ranking member by singling out one lady who has been, to this day with our committee as the administrative staff director, Ms. Joanne White from the great State of Mississippi, which should please the chair, who begins her 21st year with the committee and more than 35 years with the House of Representatives.

It is people like Joanne White that allow us to do our work, and I hope that this committee will appreciate the work of Ms. White. Thank you for letting me and the ranking member appear before you, and thank you for the support that this committee, the Committee on House Administration, has shown to the Committee on Ethics throughout its time.

[The statement of Mr. Bonner follows:]

Chairman Jo Bonner
Committee on Ethics

Testimony before the
Committee on House Administration
March 2, 2011

Good morning, Chairman Lungren and Ranking Member Brady. Also, please let me say good morning to the Ethics Committee's former Chairwoman, Ms. Lofgren, and a current Member of the Committee, Mr. Harper. Thank y'all for your service to this institution.

I am privileged to serve, with Ranking Member Linda Sánchez, and 8 of our distinguished colleagues on the uniquely evenly-divided Committee on Ethics. The Committee is tasked in carrying out its duties in an impartial manner in order to provide a fair procedural framework for the Committee's activities and to serve well the people of the United States, the House of Representatives, and the Members, officers and employees of this institution. We believe that the budget proposal before you will allow us to accomplish this mission.

As each of you know, the purpose and work of this Committee is very important to the integrity of this institution: the Committee's core responsibilities include providing training, advice, and education to House Members, officers and employees; reviewing and approving requests to accept privately-sponsored travel related to official duties; reviewing and certifying all financial disclosure reports that Members, candidates and senior staff are required to file; and investigating and adjudicating allegations of impropriety and violations of House Ethics Rules.

To give you an idea of the volume of Committee work that is accomplished each Congress, let me share with you a few remarkable numbers from the 111th Congress. During the 111th Congress, the Committee on Ethics:

- Issued more than *780* formal written advisory opinions;
- Fielded *thousands* of informal telephone calls, emails and in-person requests for guidance on ethics issues;

- Provided training to more than *10,000* House Members, officers, and employees *each year*;
- Reviewed nearly *6,900* financial disclosure statements; and
- Reviewed more than *3,090* privately-sponsored travel requests.

The Committee also:

- Commenced or continued investigative fact-gathering regarding *111* separate investigative matters;
- Received *13* referrals from the Office of Congressional Ethics – commonly known as the OCE;
- Resolved *75* investigative matters without taking formal action;
- Empanelled *4* investigative subcommittees;
- Carried over and expanded 1 investigative subcommittee, completed the investigation, adjudication and sanction phases of that *very public* matter;
- Filed *12* reports with the House totaling more than *15 thousand* pages;
- Authorized the issuance of *240* subpoenas, interviewed *140* witnesses, reviewed more than *55,300* pages of documents, held more than *70* investigative meetings; and
- As of December 31, 2010, there were at least *16* investigative matters still pending before the Committee.

As you are aware, the budget proposal before you reflects a 5 percent or 308,858.45 dollars cut to the Committee's 111th Congress budget. The Committee received 6,177,169 dollars in the 111th Congress. The Committee will gratefully receive 5,868,310.55 dollars in the 112th Congress. Possibly unlike other Committee budgets, the large bulk of the Committee's expense is personnel compensation.

Currently the Committee is authorized to employ 29 staff members. During the 111th Congress, the Committee employed – on average – 23 staff members. Unfortunately, the Committee lost several staff members in 2010 and currently employs only 20 individuals, 12 of whom are attorneys. It is my – and I believe the Ranking Member's - top priority to fill out our experienced and trustworthy nonpartisan professional staff, within the next few months. These 6 attorney positions include Staff Director, Director of Advice and Education, Chief Counsel,

Advice and Education Counsel, and Investigative Counsel. While we are faced with the decision to possibly fill only 26 of the 29 authorized positions, we believe that decision will not compromise the Committee's ability to serve this institution effectively.

Before I conclude – if I may – I would like to recognize the Committee's Administrative Staff Director, Joanne White, who just yesterday began her 21st year with the Committee. In addition to producing the Committee's annual budget, I would like to thank Joanne for her many years of service to this institution.

Thank you for having me today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have after Ranking Member Sánchez has shared her thoughts.

Mr. HARPER. And we certainly thank Joanne White for that wonderful service that she continues to provide. And with that, we will recognize Ranking Member Sánchez.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. LINDA SÁNCHEZ, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Good afternoon, Acting Chairman Harper and Ranking Member Brady. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee on House Administration today on behalf of the Committee on Ethics. We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with an overview of how the Committee on Ethics proposes to use its budget in this Congress as well as its activities in general. At the outset, I want to reiterate a point that was made by the chairman. The committee is unique among all other committees in that its membership is comprised of an equal amount of Democrats and Republicans. This parity is very important, given the nature of the committee's work. Although I did not serve on the Ethics Committee in the last Congress, it was clear to me and many of our colleagues in the House that during the 111th Congress, the committee was reinvigorated.

I have enjoyed getting to know Chairman Bonner and I look forward to working with him and all of our colleagues, as well as the staff of the committee, to ensure that the committee can continue this trend. Chairman Bonner has described some of the committee's notable accomplishments from the 111th Congress, and these are completely striking given where the committee began the 111th Congress. At the beginning of the last Congress, the committee employed only 15 staff and had nine vacancies. It lacked a permanent staff director. Of its staff, just one attorney was fully dedicated to the committee's investigative work.

In addition, during 2009, the committee's director of advice and education was appointed by the President to serve as the United States attorney for the Southern District of Alabama. From that starting point the committee hired 11 new staff members, including a permanent staff director and chief counsel, a deputy chief counsel and seven investigative attorneys. With those hires, the committee was fully staffed for the first time.

Moreover, the chairman and ranking member then sought approval to expand the committee's cap to hire even more staff. The entire staff was hard at work during the last Congress. In addition to the committee's ongoing work regarding advice, education, financial disclosure and travel, the committee's investigative unit was more active duty than ever before. In addition to beginning or continuing 111 separate investigative matters the committee had five formal investigative subcommittees, a record in the committee's history. For more detailed information about these accomplishments, I encourage our colleagues and the public to review the committee's end of Congress report which is available on our Web site at ethics.house.gov.

The committee also made investments in technology and related training to make its advice, education and investigative units even more efficient. I look forward to working with the chairman to identify even more ways in which we can continue to expand the committee's use of technology. Although we understand that the

committee, like other House committees, will receive a 5 percent cut to its budget from the last Congress, I am committed to seeing that the committee maintains this vigorous level of activity in the next 2 years.

A key to that continued success is the committee's nonpartisan staff. I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know the talented men and women who make up the committee staff. And I would like to single out just one of them now to echo Chairman Bonner's words of thanks for Joanne White who is marking 20 years at the committee today.

Her commitment to the committee and to the House are emblematic of the dedication that all of the nonpartisan staff bring to their jobs. Again, I want to thank you for the opportunity to address you today and thank you for your committee's consideration of our budget request. We are happy to answer any questions that you may have.

[The statement of Ms. Sánchez follows:]

Rep. Linda T. Sánchez, Ranking Member

Committee on Ethics

Testimony Before The

Committee on House Administration

March 1, 2011

Good afternoon, Chairman Lungren and Ranking Member Brady. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee on House Administration today on behalf of the Committee on Ethics. We appreciate this opportunity to provide you with an overview of how the Committee on Ethics proposes to use its budget in this Congress, as well as its activities in general.

At the outset, I would like to reiterate a point made by the Chairman. The Committee is unique among all other committees in that its membership is comprised of an equal number of members of the majority and minority parties. This parity is very important given the nature of the Committee's work.

Although I did not serve on the Committee in the last Congress, it was clear to me and many of our colleagues in the House that during the 111th Congress, the Committee was reinvigorated. I have enjoyed getting to know Chairman Bonner, and I look forward to working with him, all of our colleagues, and the staff of the Committee to ensure that the Committee can continue this trend.

Chairman Bonner has described some of the Committee's notable accomplishments from the 111th Congress. These accomplishments are particularly striking given where the Committee began the 111th Congress.

At the beginning of the last Congress, the Committee employed only 15 staff, and had 9 vacancies. It lacked a permanent staff director. Of its staff, just one attorney was fully dedicated to the Committee's investigative work. In addition, during 2009, the Committee's Director of Advice and Education was appointed by the President to serve as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama.

From that starting point, the Committee hired 11 new staff members, including a permanent staff director and chief counsel, a deputy chief counsel, and seven investigative attorneys. With those hires, the Committee was fully staffed for the first time. Moreover, the Chairman and Ranking Member then sought approval to expand the Committee's cap to hire even more staff.

The entire staff was hard at work during the last Congress. In addition to the Committee's ongoing work regarding advice, education, financial disclosure, and travel, the Committee's investigative unit was more active than ever before. In addition to beginning or continuing 111 separate investigative matters, the Committee had five formal investigative subcommittees, a record in the Committee's history.

For more detailed information about these accomplishments, I encourage our colleagues and the public to review the Committee's end of Congress report, which is available on our web site, at ethics.house.gov.

The Committee also made investments in technology and related training to make its advice, education, and investigative units even more efficient. I look forward to working with Chairman Bonner to identify even more ways in which we can continue to expand the Committee's use of technology.

Although we understand that the Committee, like other House committees, will receive a five percent cut to its budget from the last Congress, I am committed to seeing that the Committee maintain this vigorous level of activity in the next two years.

A key to that continued success is the Committee's nonpartisan staff. I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know the talented men and women who make up the Committee's staff.

I would like to single out just one of them now to echo Chairman Bonner's words of thanks for Joanne White, who is marking 20 years with the Committee today. Her commitment to the Committee and the House are emblematic of the dedication that all of the nonpartisan staff bring to their jobs.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to address you today, and thank you for your committee's consideration of our budget request. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

###

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 131

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Ethics in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2011

Mr. BONNER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Ethics in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Ethics (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $5,868,310.55 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $2,824,535.12 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $3,043,775.43 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

○

Mr. HARPER. Thank you very much. And with that, I just want to make sure that each of you would tell me if you believe you have the funding necessary to implement your required oversight responsibilities?

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Chairman, I believe we do. As the ranking member indicated, we asked for in the preceding Congress, and I see the chair of the committee and a distinguished member of the House Administration Committee has just entered the room.

When Ms. Lofgren chaired the committee and I served as the ranking member, we did ask for additional money for technical upgrades, computer upgrades and additional staff. We were never able to fully arrive at the level of 29 employees that we were slotted. And because of the necessity in making some tough decisions and bringing the cuts to the House itself, I think it is safe to say that we probably will not fill all of the positions even at a reduced level that we would have. That said, I would say as a positive note when we initially solicited advertisements for interested attorneys and staff to join the committee at the beginning of the 112th Congress, the ranking member and I have received over 255 applications.

So there is a renewed interest. I agree with Ms. Sánchez that thanks to the positive work that we were able to do during the preceding Congress, I think we have got people who are interested in joining the work of the committee in a nonpartisan professional way. And so to directly answer the chairman's questions, I think we will certainly make do with what this committee affords us to have, and I think we can meet that goal, and I look forward to trying.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ranking Member Sánchez, your views on that.

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Certainly. Clearly working with a smaller budget does create a set of constraints, but I am positive that with the budget that we are requesting, we can do the bulk of the work that the committee should do. My understanding is that in the last Congress there were investments made in technology that make the staff more efficient. So I am hoping those efficiencies carry over into this Congress. And with a lesser budget, we can still maintain the high quality and high level of staff that we have there on the committee, and that they continue to do the work that we know they are capable of.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you very much. And with that, I will recognize Ranking Member Brady for any questions he may have.

Mr. BRADY. Hearing your testimony, I am assuming that the staff is one-third, two-thirds. That is working out, that agreement?

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Brady, to refresh your memory, because you were very supportive of us when you were chairman of the committee, this is the only evenly divided committee, both by, in terms of the make-up. There are five Democrats and five Republicans. And the staff is evenly—in fact, it is not evenly divided. It is a nonpartisan professional staff that is hired. The only exception to that is that the chair and the ranking member each have a counsel assigned to them. But as has been the practice of the past, even though the counsel to the chair, in this case, counsel to a Republican member and previously counsel to the chair and counsel to a

Democratic member in the 111th Congress, they really serve the entire committee. So there really is not an evenly divided—there is not a two-thirds/one-third ratio on the staff.

Mr. BRADY. How about space, is the new space arrangements working out?

Mr. BONNER. Well, since Chairman Lungren has arrived, I will thank him directly and publicly. We certainly were as surprised as a lot of others were to find that the committee which had been in the Capitol for many, many years, I don't know the exact number, but we were surprised that we were going to move. But I am sure the parliamentarian was surprised he was going to move and the Committee on Appropriations was surprised they were going to move. Thanks to this committee, your committee's work, and singularly thanks to Chairman Lungren, I think you helped make the move, the transition, as smooth as possible.

It is a much different view as opposed to looking out over The Mall of the Capitol. One of the few perks, as Chairman Lofgren will recall, was to be able to work in the historic Capitol Building and look out over The Mall itself. But we appreciate the space that we were given. The staff has worked hard to get up to speed in their new space. And we are diligently working to fill that staff, the voids that are there. So Chairman Lungren, thank you for your personal assistance in helping to make a painful bit of news a little bit less painful.

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. If I may add to that. And again, I did not serve on the committee in the 111th Congress, and perhaps Congresswoman Lofgren can speak more to this. In informal discussion with some of the staff, there are some concerns that they have with the space, particularly where some of the offices are located in very public areas where Members coming in for advice or guidance, if there are reporters in the hallway, they could draw wrong inferences from the fact that Members may just be seeking guidance from the committee. So there are a number of space-related issues that have come to my attention that I hope to work with the chairman to address in a way that makes our members and the committee staff more comfortable in their new surroundings.

There is also some degree of separation in terms of offices of the staff, which isn't necessarily, doesn't exactly promote sort of smooth running of some of the operations. So there are some challenges to the new space that I hope to work with the chairman to address some of these concerns that have been raised by the committee staff.

Mr. BRADY. Okay. Thank you. And thank you for appearing in front of this committee. And I hope you will never see me in front of yours.

Mr. LUNGREN [presiding]. Congresswoman Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. I just wanted to make a couple of comments and thank the Members who are serving here in the 112th. I am happy not to be among them. And to know that there is someone maybe—I was at a Judiciary Committee hearing, I am sorry I am late, but I did want to publicly thank and acknowledge Joanne White. I think that was already done by the chairman. But it is not that usual that someone serves for 20 years on a committee. And her tremendous service is very valuable to us. She has seen a lot, but

because of confidentiality she can say nothing. I just think it is tremendous. And the work that she has done, not just for the committee, but really for our country, is spectacular. And I wanted to publicly thank her for that and for sticking with it.

I wanted to comment just a couple, on a couple of points. And I think the budget is adequate to do this because you can move money from personnel to technology if you wish. I wanted to make sure that was the case. We did do some improvements in technology, and we have made it possible for people to file things on the Web and make it work better. There is still room to do a lot more of that. And I am hoping that the committee has enough technical expertise. Actually, we are a little bit on the thin side on that. To expand that, because it will save a lot of time for the attorneys. And maybe you can give feedback on that. And then the second thing, and it is certainly not the committee's fault, and it wasn't their choice to move. But I just say I think the space is terrible.

I mean, the point that Ms. Sánchez has made is absolutely correct. The committee room is right across from the Longworth Cafeteria. And to think that you can have a confidential visit if a Member is planning to come in, it is just not possible. Furthermore, the committee meeting room is right outside the smoking room. So when the committee meets, it is not like the House Administration Committee or the Judiciary Committee where you want the public to see, often-times it is confidential matters, and that confidentiality is going to be very difficult to maintain. The three offices are separated. It is really not a good space situation. And I am hopeful that the committee can work to improve it, because this is a hard enough job as it is.

The staff works incredible hours. And to have this kind of dysfunctional space situation just makes a bad trying situation way, way harder to deal with. So that is our job, not their job. But I hope that we can take that up, Mr. Chairman. And I don't know if there are comments on the technology side.

Mr. BONNER. Well, I would say that, first of all, and we were singing your praises before you came into the room, but certainly the leadership that you provided that I attempted to assist with in terms of making the technological upgrades, Ms. Lofgren is exactly right, we need to all do better in terms of making, taking advantage of technology today and making it easier and more user friendly for the 10,000 staffers and members who work up here to use the committee. And we will, I am confident that the ranking member and I will continue to build on the work that began in the 111th Congress.

I would say that while I think we were all, or at least I was certainly surprised by the decision to move out of the Capitol. In defense to the incoming Speaker and now the current Speaker, when he made the decision to relocate the parliamentarian so that we could create for the first time a lady's bathroom off the House floor, which I have never used the one in Statuary Hall, I doubt I will use the new one, but I think that is certainly appropriate to bring this old building into compliance and to make it more convenient for our female colleagues.

It did set off a domino. You then add the parliamentarian's moving, Speaker's Office, House Appropriations Committee, as I noted.

I will say on a positive note, though, in addition to changing the name from the more formal Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to the Committee on Ethics, one of the things that we hope to do is to encourage people that there is not a stigma attached to the committee. And if you are getting ready to make a trip or you are getting ready to get married and you want guidance, that you can come in and make it more available to where you can seek advice from the committee. Chairman Lungren actually looks puzzled by my comment.

Mr. LUNGREN. No, no. You are talking about getting permission from the Ethics Committee to get married. I didn't realize that was one of your obligations.

Mr. BONNER. For the wedding gifts.

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Pardon me, and the engagement ring also, because I ran up against that.

Ms. LOFGREN. And baby gifts, too.

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. And the baby gifts.

Mr. BONNER. But as the former chair of the committee knows, we were in three locations. We were in the Ford Building, we were in the CVC, and we were in the Capitol previously. So we were not asked would we like to move. Certainly if we had been given a vote we would have asked to have stayed. But I think that notwithstanding the growing pains of moving into a totally new environment basically here in the Longworth Building, the staff is working, as you would expect them to, with a good attitude and as hard as they can to make this work.

And clearly, if the Committee on House Administration has other ideas that would make additional space available or a larger space where we could bring the staffs together in the coming months or years, we certainly would encourage that.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, if I can just close. I appreciate that the chairman has put the best face on this possible, but I do think certainly there are times and there were times in the last Congress where witnesses were brought in and it was important that the witnesses on a matter be seen in a confidential manner. I mean, there are many cases where confidentiality is important, and it is going to be very difficult, I would say impossible, to do that given the current location.

And I hope that we can work on this further. I know even though the members are putting a good face on it, a discreet place would not probably bring them—they would not condemn us for succeeding in doing that. And I yield back.

Mr. LUNGREN. Well, all I would say is if there is an issue of confidentiality and protection, we would be happy to work with you on that to the extent we can. I would also like to say I would—I very much appreciate the work your staff does. Whenever I have thought about a trip or whenever I have thought about how you handle a request to put your name on some honorary panel, my office always checks with the Ethics Committee staff. They have never been slow to react. Their advice has been very good advice. And I can just imagine that if every member does the same thing that my staff and I do, the tremendous workload that you have.

So we appreciate the fact that you have a tremendous job to not only protect the public, but to protect members from unproven

ungrounded accusations and also to give members a sense of what the rules are so they can follow those rules and protect the integrity of this institution.

So I thank you very, very much for that. And if there are no other questions, we would thank you for your testimony. We now have a break until 3:40 until our next committee is to be here. And we tried to get some to come up a little bit earlier but couldn't do that. I think we are going to have votes around 3:15, so hopefully that will work out with us coming back here. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. With the concurrence of the ranking member of this committee, we will reassemble for the continuation of this hearing. And we do have your written submission. We have the oversight plan, all the other information here that is part of our record, and we look forward to hearing from you.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. DARRELL ISSA, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. ISSA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Brady. Both the ranking member and myself voted for the House resolution that reduces our level by 5 percent. We are altogether too aware that we are reducing ours not by 5 percent per se, as much as we are reducing it to a level of around 2007. Adjusted for inflation and constant dollars, our committee will be operating at probably 2004, 2005 constant dollars.

Having said that, America has been cutting back for many years now. They are operating, in many cases, at levels of real income that go back to the early 2000's, and we have to do the same. There is no time like today to make huge changes in the waste in government. Earl Devaney, who has been the chairperson of recovery oversight estimates, and is accurate, that at least 7 percent of all money that government spends is, in fact, some form of waste, or it is being defrauded.

We believe our committee, with the funds that we are supplied and the personnel we are authorized, can make a huge difference and reduce that by hundreds-fold what were authorized in the way of funding. To do so, we are going to work together on a bipartisan basis to ensure that when the administration and the bureaucracy sees us, they see us, in fact, united to try to find real waste in government and make a real change.

Additionally, and the ranking member certainly will have his own statement, I think the committee is well aware that no matter how much we take out of discretionary spending, we cannot get anywhere close to a budget that the American people can live with unless we take on the non discretionary spending, both the waste in it and the systematic failures.

So at least on behalf of this committee we are committed to do oversight, look for waste, fraud and abuse, and then go after the systemic problem that has caused health care and other costs to our elderly to rise far faster than inflation or the American people's ability to do so. Those are some of the items that are in our plan. We know we have to do better than we have in the past and we know we have to do it for substantially less and we are committed to do it as a committee.

And with that, I am sure the ranking member has a few words.

[The statement of Mr. Issa follows:]

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

DAN BURTON, INDIANA
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
PATRICK McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
JIM JORDAN, OHIO
JASON CHAFFETZ, UTAH
CONNIE MACK, FLORIDA
TIM WALBERG, MICHIGAN
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
JUSTIN AMASH, MICHIGAN
ANN MARIE BUERKLE, NEW YORK
PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S., ARIZONA
RAUL R. LABRADOR, IDAHO
PATRICK MEEHAN, PENNSYLVANIA
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, M.D., TENNESSEE
JOE WALSH, ILLINOIS
TREY GOWDY, SOUTH CAROLINA
DENNIS A. ROSS, FLORIDA
FRANK C. GUINTA, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BLAKE FARENTHOLD, TEXAS
MIKE KELLY, PENNSYLVANIA

LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6143

MAJORITY (202) 225–5074
FACSIMILE (202) 225–3974
MINORITY (202) 225–5051

http://oversight.house.gov

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA
MIKE QUIGLEY, ILLINOIS
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
BRUCE L. BRALEY, IOWA
PETER WELCH, VERMONT
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA

March 1, 2011

Budget Request for the 112th Congress to the Committee on House Administration

Opening Statement of Chairman Darrell Issa

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady: I would like to thank you for allowing me to testify today on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee's budget for the 112th Congress.

Along with Ranking Member Cummings, I supported H. Res. 22, reducing our spending level to 95 percent of last Congress. In fact, under this arrangement the Oversight and Government Reform Committee's budget will be two percent below our 2008 level (110th Congress).

The House's substantial investment in the Oversight Committee has the potential to return hundreds of billions of dollars in waste, fraud, and abuse to the taxpayers this Congress. Recovery and Accountability Transparency Board Chairman Earl Devaney estimates 7% of all federal spending is actually lost to waste, fraud, and abuse on an annual basis. In the President's proposed budget, that amounts to $228 billion taxpayer dollars we will lose to our broken system. We must do better than that.

In his letter to our incoming majority, Leader Cantor said that "We must create a culture that prioritizes oversight" noting that substantive oversight and reform "will not only result in better legislation but also resonate with the public."

The House's investment in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will lead to cost-savings and real reform for the American taxpayer.

I thank you for your time, and I look forward to taking your questions.

The CHAIRMAN. The ranking member is recognized.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. ELIJAH CUMMINGS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Mr. CUMMINGS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Brady. This is the first time I have appeared before you as the ranking member of the Oversight Committee, and I thank you for the opportunity.

I also want to thank Chairman Issa for including the minority as a partner in developing both our committee's budget and our oversight plan. The committee has adopted an aggressive agenda to root out waste, fraud and abuse, to make our government work more effectively and efficiently on behalf of the American taxpayers. And I have often said that we want to add value to the lives of all Americans.

As I have expressed to Chairman Issa, I am very pleased we were able to work in a bipartisan manner to include in our oversight plan an investigation into allegations of abuse by mortgage service companies during the current national foreclosure crisis.

In addition, the Government Accountability Office has provided us with a good roadmap for our work. At a hearing before our committee earlier this month, GAO issued its biennial high risk report which highlights more than 30 areas where we can find real efficiencies and considerable savings. For example, GAO highlighted the need to make significant improvements in Federal contracting, which accounts for hundreds of billions of dollars each year.

In light of this ambitious agenda, full funding of the chairman's budget request is imperative. As he noted, our overall budget request represents a 5 percent decrease from the 111th Congress. Although I support this request, I do so reluctantly. The efforts of our committee take significant resources. But there is no doubt that they provide a cost-effective return on the investment. Of course, I am pleased that Chairman Issa is continuing our committee's tradition of requesting one-third allocation of the budget for the minority.

However, I caution against making further cuts. Nearly every member of my staff has already taken a cut of at least 5 percent and some more. Like your staff, they are among the most hardworking, knowledgeable and dedicated public servants in the country. And in this time where public servants are being criticized, and I think quite unfairly, I think it is very important, as the President said, that we attract the brightest and the best. A lot of them are sitting right behind you right now. They routinely put in tremendous hours, not for the pay, but for the privilege of working in this institution, to fulfill their patriotic mission of public service, and to make a positive difference in the lives of more than 300 million Americans. And so I thank you, Mr. Chairman and ranking member, and other members of the committee. And with that, I will yield back.

[The statement of Mr. Cummings follows:]

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

DAN BURTON, INDIANA
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
PATRICK McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
JIM JORDAN, OHIO
JASON CHAFFETZ, UTAH
CONNIE MACK, FLORIDA
TIM WALBERG, MICHIGAN
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
JUSTIN AMASH, MICHIGAN
ANN MARIE BUERKLE, NEW YORK
PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S., ARIZONA
RAUL R. LABRADOR, IDAHO
PATRICK MEEHAN, PENNSYLVANIA
SCOTT DesJARLAIS, M.D., TENNESSEE
JOE WALSH, ILLINOIS
TREY GOWDY, SOUTH CAROLINA
DENNIS A. ROSS, FLORIDA
FRANK C. GUINTA, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BLAKE FARENTHOLD, TEXAS
MIKE KELLY, PENNSYLVANIA

LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6143

MAJORITY (202) 225–5074
FACSIMILE (202) 225–3974
MINORITY (202) 225–5051

http://oversight.house.gov

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA
MIKE QUIGLEY, ILLINOIS
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
BRUCE L. BRALEY, IOWA
PETER WELCH, VERMONT
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA

Statement of Rep. Elijah E. Cummings

Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Before the Committee on House Administration

March 1, 2011

Chairman Lungren and Ranking Member Brady, this is the first time I have appeared before you as Ranking Member of the Oversight Committee, and I thank you for the opportunity to testify on our proposed budget for the 112th Congress.

I want to thank Chairman Issa for including the minority as a partner in developing both our Committee's budget and our oversight plan. The Committee has adopted an aggressive agenda to root out waste, fraud, and abuse to make our government work more effectively and efficiently on behalf of the American taxpayers.

As I have expressed to Chairman Issa, I am very pleased we were able to work in a bipartisan manner to include in our oversight plan an investigation into allegations of abuse by mortgage service companies during the current national foreclosure crisis.

In addition, the Government Accountability Office has provided us with a good road map for our work. At a hearing before our Committee earlier this month, GAO issued its biennial High-Risk Report, which highlights more than 30 areas where we can find real efficiencies and considerable savings. For example, GAO highlighted the need to make significant improvements in federal contracting, which accounts for hundreds of billions of dollars each year.

In light of this ambitious agenda, full funding of the Chairman's budget request is imperative. As he noted, our overall budget request represents a 5% decrease from the 111th Congress. Although I support this request, I do so reluctantly. The efforts of our Committee take significant resources, but there is no doubt that they provide a cost effective return on the investment.

Of course, I am pleased that Chairman Issa is continuing our Committee's tradition of requesting a 33% allocation of the budget for the minority.

However, I caution against making further cuts. Nearly every member of my staff has already taken a salary cut to work on this Committee. Like your staff, they are among the most

hard-working, knowledgeable, and dedicated public servants in the country. They routinely put in tremendous hours, not for the pay, but for the privilege of working in this institution, to fulfill the patriotic mission of public service, and to make a positive difference in the lives of more than 300 million Americans.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions you have.

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 121

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Mr. ISSA submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $21,226,108 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $10,613,054 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $10,613,054 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

○

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much for your statements. Obviously, you have accepted a 5 percent decrease in funds, as have other committees. Actually, Judiciary has a slightly higher budget because they had a spike in funding last year for impeachment proceedings, but everybody has had a 5 percent decrease in their baseline.

How did you manage to find the savings? Did you take it out of personnel? Did you take it out of technology? Did you take it out of other expenditures?

Mr. ISSA. Some of it. Some of those cuts are not yet determined. So far we have not filled all of our slots and we are delaying a couple of them. Quite candidly, we are hoping to get a few more detailees and a higher level of cooperation with the administration because ultimately, no matter how much funding and staff you give us, unless we have cooperation from within the national bureaucracy, we are really not going to be that effective.

We did do some planning for some smart buying. Some of our computers are actually going to be operating multiple software on a single computer using VM ware. We have also combined a couple of positions to be a little more efficient. The committee also has some shared staff that reduces redundancy. We think we can find all of it by the end of the year. There is no question though that, like the ranking member, we have had to make it clear that there are some cuts. We are hiring at a lower rate than we might otherwise have. And we expect that at the end of the year, we will be absolutely down to the last penny. But we also think that this is a way of showing the American people that we get it. But as the ranking member said, and probably the most important thing is we generate money by the work that we do in the way of tangible savings. So we also realize we have an obligation not to have so much austerity that, in fact, we get more waste in government.

The CHAIRMAN. And Mr. Ranking Member, from your comments, you are satisfied with the division of resources that is the one-third, two-thirds?

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yes. You know, this has been the tradition and I have no problem with that. As a matter of fact, you know, I don't know, very soon we may be on the other side and I want to treat, want to make sure we treat the—yes. But to answer your question, yes.

The CHAIRMAN. And Mr. Chairman Issa, part of the name of your committee is oversight. Yet, all the other committees are supposed to do oversight for the jurisdictions that they have. How do you make sure that t is not redundancy and that other committees both do their job and are not doing the same thing that you are doing or vice versa?

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, we have a long tradition of being the first to shed light, sometimes the last to shed light, but recognizing that when a committee of jurisdiction is able to do, pick it up from w we often begin and see it through to fruition, including legislation, we generally step back or offer assets. The fact is that the vast majority of what we do is inter, or if you will, multiple committee jurisdiction, and that is where we tend to hit our sweet spot.

We are working on areas where it takes two or three committees. As you know, Homeland Security is a good example, where there

are 200 and some different committees and subcommittees that people can report to. That leaves a lot of room for us to be an umbrella organization. At the same time, Judiciary—we just had one with Transportation, joint hearings and joint staff work is how we think we can actually get some of the savings where we pool our resources when there is a common oversight.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Brady.

Mr. BRADY. Just to thank the chairman and ranking member for being. And Mr. Cummings, as you know, we all did vote for that five percent. Also there was an amendment to cut some more. The leadership of this committee and yourself and your chairman voted, thank you, against that, so we are not against cutting you. We don't want to have to be able to cut any more, especially the little men and women, the little people that rely on the salary that is not as large as ours and some other people. We don't want to have to cut again.

So I am in accord with your request as we would love to try to find some extra money for you for the job well done that you do. And we are not looking to have to stand up and stand up again and get some more cuts. We think we did enough, and I think we can, hopefully you can and you are saying that you can, you know, conduct your business in a proper manner without any more cuts that maybe would make you put you at an expense where you couldn't. So we are in accord with that. And I thank both of you for being here.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. No questions, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Well, thank you very much. All right. Financial Services yet? We understand Mr. Frank is unable to be here, so Mr. Bachus, you get to be both the chairman and the ranking member, an unusual circumstance for you.

We have the material that your committee submitted to us in terms of your budget, in terms of description of what your oversight plan is and other material, and we have reviewed that. But we, in addition to that, would love to hear your presentation before this committee as to how you are going about your business with the 5 percent cut that has been imposed on all committees.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. SPENCER BACHUS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ALABAMA

Mr. BACHUS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Brady. I am pleased to appear before you today as chairman of the Financial Services Committee. Our request reflects the 5 percent reduction from the allocation our committee received last Congress. Our budget request grants the minority one-third of both the funding and staff slots allocated to the committee. Our staff slots will be allocated 58/28, 58 Republican, 28 Democrat. That reflects an increase in staff slots to the minority from the previous Congress to provide a full two-thirds, one-third division.

In a change from the 111th Congress, we have also allowed the minority access to FinMart, which provides them with timely infor-

mation on the funding and payments process to assist them in managing their budget. We didn't have that.

The CHAIRMAN. I think the two of you talked about that last year when you came before our committee.

Mr. BACHUS. Yes, that is right. We wanted that same courtesy, but we want to set the example going forward.

In an effort to provide greater transparency in presenting information to the public, we have gone to an outside vendor to supply our committee Web site services. This expense will enable us to provide Web site visitors with real-time information and documents regarding the committee's activities as well as several new interactive features.

Our committee has a significant amount of work ahead with the Nation's sluggish economy and financial challenges. We read daily that this is our constituents' top priority and concern, and it places a great emphasis on the work of our committee.

Therefore, I am asking you to continue to provide us with the resources we need to do our jobs, particularly in an era w oversight of the economy is critical.

And it is my understanding, Ranking Member Brady, that Ranking Member Frank submitted to you a statement. I have it.

[The statement of Mr. Bachus follows:]

Statement of Chairman Spencer Bachus

Committee on Financial Services

March 1, 2011

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am pleased to appear before you today as the Chairman of the Committee on Financial Services.

Our request reflects a 5% reduction from the allocation to our Committee for the 111th Congress.

Our budget request grants the Minority one-third of both the funding and staff slots allocated to the Committee. Staff slots will be allotted as follows: 58 Republican to 28 Democratic. This reflects an increase in staff slots to the Minority from the previous Congress to provide the full 2/3 to 1/3 division.

In a change from the 111th Congress, we have allowed the Minority access to FinMart which provides them with timely information on the funding and payments process to assist in managing the budget.

In an effort to provide better transparency in presenting information to the public, we have gone to an outside vendor to supply our Committee website services. This expense will enable us to provide website visitors with real time access to information and documents regarding the Committee's activities, as well as several new interactive features.

Our Committee has a significant amount of work ahead. The nation's sluggish economy is our constituents' top concern and places a great emphasis on the work of our Committee. Therefore, I am asking you to continue to provide us with the resources we need to do our job, particularly in an era where our oversight of the economy is so critical.

Mr. BRADY. Yes, he did. And he told me that he could not be here but he was happy with working with you and with the arrangement of the one-third, two-thirds with the allocations financial and with the office space. So he said that he could not be here but he thanked you.

Mr. BACHUS. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Frank follows:]

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 118

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Financial Services in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Mr. BACHUS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Financial Services in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Financial Services (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $17,399,282 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $8,441,264 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $8,958,018 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

○

The CHAIRMAN. Chairman Bachus, could you explain to us, with this 5 percent cut, how your committee intends to do the oversight in the Financial Services area? We just had the Committee of Oversight and Government Reform talk about the things that they are doing, but they acknowledge, as this committee acknowledges, that every committee is supposed to have oversight responsibilities they carry out. And this being a particularly important area of concern for the public, we would like to be assured that you are not going to shortchange that part of your responsibilities.

Mr. BACHUS. No. In fact, we are adding two staff members to oversight. We did very little oversight in the committee over the last 4 years, and very, very few hearings, almost none. So we have actually added three new employees and redeployed two others to help in this area. So I can assure you that we want——

Now, I will say this: Government oversight, their responsibilities in oversight and our responsibilities are different. I would hope that they would respect our jurisdiction in this regard.

The CHAIRMAN. Okay. Thank you very much. Ranking Member Brady.

Mr. BRADY. I would just thank you for being here and thank you for the respect again you are showing the minority with the cooperation that you have been showing. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent.

I hope this doesn't set a precedent that you get off fairly easily if the ranking member doesn't show up. And if it happens again, we will change the circumstance. But we thank you very much for your testimony. And I understand the reasons why Mr. Frank couldn't be here and we appreciate that. And you have outlined in your written material in some detail as to the plans for the committee, and we appreciate that as well. Thank you very much.

Mr. BACHUS. Well, thank you. Let me say this: When Ranking Member Frank was chairman, our committees staffs cooperated whenever they could. They have a very cordial and civil relationship with each other and treat each other with respect. We differ a lot of times on policy, but we try not to internalize that in our dealings with each other. He did extend those courtesies to me and our staff, and the members—because of his example when he was in the majority and we were in the minority, it was the thing to do.

The CHAIRMAN. The only area of controversy I remember last year was the financial information available to your committee as the minority, and you have changed that with respect to the information available to the minority this time around, correct?

Mr. BACHUS. Yes. For me to say that it made our job harder and that they should do it, made it obvious for me to extend that courtesy to him.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I am happy that you followed through because I recall the colloquy that we had on that last year. So thank you very much.

Mr. BACHUS. I expect if we go back in the minority, which, of course, I don't expect for 20 or 30 years, I would expect that he will do the same.

Mr. BRADY. We thought the same thing, sir.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JOHN KLINE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Mr. KLINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, ranking member Brady, members of the committee, thanks for the opportunity to appear with the senior Democratic member, the ranking member, Mr. Miller, to testify in support of our joint budget request for the 112th Congress. I would like to thank Mr. Miller for his support of our overall request, and in keeping with his practice during his tenure as chairman, I am pleased to provide the minority staff with autonomy over their allotted one-third share of committing funding and resources including staff slots.

In the 111th Congress, our committee was allocated $17,571,062. With the exception of shared staff and technology resources, two-thirds of that total was provided to the majority and one-third was provided to the minority. In recognition of the budgetary challenges facing Congress and the Nation, we respectfully request $16,692,508 for the 112th Congress, which reflects a 5 percent reduction in our allocation from the last Congress.

Our committee anticipates a vigorous legislative schedule this year as we address the impending need to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and work to provide the necessary education and training opportunities to ensure our Nation's workforce is prepared to succeed in the global economy.

We believe the funds we are requesting will enable us to carry out our ambitious agenda, and fulfill our responsibilities to this Congress and the people of the United States.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I appreciate your time, and I will be happy to answer any of your questions.

[The statement of Mr. Kline follows:]

Testimony of Rep. John Kline (R-MN)
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce
Committee on House Administration Hearing on the "Committee Funding for the 112th Congress"
March 1, 2010

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear with Senior Democratic Member Miller to testify in support of our joint budget request for the 112th Congress.

I would like to thank Mr. Miller for his support of our overall request, and in keeping with his practice during his tenure as Chairman, I am pleased to provide the Minority staff with autonomy over their allotted 1/3 share of committee funding and resources, including staff slots.

In the 111th Congress, our Committee was allocated $17,571, 062. With the exception of shared staff and technology resources, 2/3 of this total was provided to the Majority, and 1/3 was provided to the Minority. In recognition of the budgetary challenges facing Congress

and the nation, we respectfully request $16,692,508 for the 112th Congress, which reflects a 5 percent reduction in our allocation from the last Congress.

Our Committee anticipates a vigorous legislative schedule this year as we address the impending need to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and work to provide the necessary education and training opportunities to ensure our nation's workforce is prepared to succeed in the global economy. We believe the funds we are requesting will enable us to carry out our ambitious agenda and fulfill our responsibilities to this Congress and the people of the United States.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I appreciate your time and would be happy to answer any questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Miller.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. GEORGE MILLER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Brady and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee to review the funding appropriations for this session of the Congress.

I want to thank Chairman Kline for the preparation of the committee budget, his cooperation in transitioning to the 112th Congress. I appreciate that Chairman Kline has followed the committee tradition of allowing me total autonomy on the budget development of the minority share, and the budget provides the minority with one-third of the total funding and staff.

Additionally, I look forward to working with Chairman Kline whenever there are appropriate ways to achieve efficiencies in committee's operation.

Our committee has jurisdiction over many timely issues of concern to the country, especially America's middle class families. The committee had a very productive agenda in the 111th Congress, overseeing 14 pieces of legislation that became law and holding 81 hearings. I expect the committee will continue to have an active agenda in the 112th Congress. Already we have had seven hearings in 13 legislative days since the committee was organized for this Congress.

Major legislation within our jurisdiction has seen floor action and as Chairman Kline has pointed out, we hope to work together on important reforms in the areas like elementary and secondary education. We agreed on the oversight plan for the committee. We worked on it together. And I guess, maybe like in other committees, but today we had a hearing on regulations and it is really sort of an oversight hearing on if we are going to reauthorize ESEA, what do you do about all the regulations we have built up over the years? So I don't know that it is segmented out, but it looks a lot like oversight to me.

But anyway, I think we are working well together and I appreciate the cooperation, and I appreciate this committee holding the committees as you have done in the past, to this two-thirds, one thirds split. I think people take responsibility and they do what they will. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. George Miller of California follows:]

Statement of
HON. GEORGE MILLER
Senior Democrat
Committee on Education and the Workforce
Before the Committee on House Administration
Hearing on "Committee Funding for the 112th Congress"

March 1, 2011

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before this Committee to review the funding appropriated to the Committee on Education and the Workforce for the 112th Congress.

I would also like to thank Chairman Kline for his preparation of the Committee budget and his cooperation in transitioning to the 112th Congress. I appreciate that Chairman Kline has followed the Committee's tradition in allowing me total autonomy in budget development of the Minority share, and that the budget provides the Minority with one-third of the total funding and staff.

Additionally, I look forward to working with Chairman Kline wherever there are appropriate ways to achieve efficiencies in Committee operations.

Our Committee has jurisdiction over many timely issues of concern to the country and especially America's middle class families. The Committee had a very productive agenda in the 111th Congress, overseeing 14 pieces of legislation that became law and holding 81 hearings.

I expect that this Committee will continue to have an active agenda in the 112th Congress. Already we have had 7 hearings in the 13 legislative days since the Committee was organized for the 112th Congress. Major legislation within our jurisdiction has already seen floor action. And, as Chairman Kline has pointed out, we hope to work together on important reforms in areas like elementary and secondary education.

Our Committee is a busy one and will remain so, and the resources made available by our budget will be put to appropriate and efficient use.

Thank you very much and I am happy to answer any questions.

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 107

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Education and the Workforce in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2011

Mr. KLINE (for himself and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Education and the Workforce in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Education and the Workforce (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $16,692,508 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $8,346,254 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $8,346,254 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

○

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. And I understand the sincerity in which you have come up with this budget and which you will proceed. It is a 5 percent cut. There are some who believe, although I was not one of them, that we ought to cut even deeper.

One of the concerns I have is that we have an obligation to do oversight. We are small compared to the executive branch. We really, to do our job, we have got to be very, very good and tough about it.

Do you think you have sufficient resources to do the kind of oversight that we need when we are reviewing these education programs and those programs in the area of the work force?

If we are going to do the job of trying to be a more efficient government, we are going to have to ride herd, if that is the proper term, on the executive branch in the best way.

Do you have the resources that you are able to do that in this regard?

Mr. KLINE. I believe we do, Mr. Chairman. We are addressing the 5 percent issue, like a lot of other committees. We have got some staff slots that we can fill. We are filling them a little bit slower rate. We want to make sure we have got the best qualified people to fill those slots so we can maximize the people we have got, their efficiencies. It is one thing about being forced to take a cut, you look for places for efficiencies. We can do some things in house that we were perhaps doing out of house, printing costs and so forth. I believe we can do it very well with that cut.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Miller, one of the things that I reflect on is that it is a lot easier to take cuts when you are going to the minority and the majority than when you are going from the majority to the minority.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I have been reflecting on that myself.

The CHAIRMAN. But that is life and we have to deal with it. So my question is, how do you feel about the resources you have? And what kind of decisions did you have to make with respect to your side of the budget to incorporate those 5 percent cuts?

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Well, we obviously had significant cuts in personnel. I was very proud of the staff that we had assembled. But again, I am not much different than other committees of the House, when you make this transition from majority to minority. We were running a cooperative technology center. We have stopped that. We seem to think that that may be better, may be somewhat, may be a little less expensive on either one of our budgets, as opposed to when we had them together. It was something we tried over the last several years.

What happens to us, you know, a lot of times we, this committee has to respond to hiccups that take place. That can be an explosion in a coal mine. Those can be very expensive investigations because there is a lot of parties and depending on that. There are hiccups in the pension system, there are a number of things that happen that requires serious expertise and you know, you hope that doesn't happen. But I think on the day-to-day basis, we can do the oversight, and I think the majority can do the investigations that would be necessary. We will just have to see.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Brady.

Mr. BRADY. Just to thank both of you for being here today and appreciate your testimony.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent. Okay. Ms. Lofgren.

See, you did well even with the ranking member here. Appreciate it. Thank you.

All right. We have got Agriculture coming right up. Thank you very much for being here. As you know, this is our marathon effort to get all of the committees and find out what their funding requests are before we have to put the omnibus funding request on the legislative side before the full house.

So we have received your written entries going over personnel, going over expenses, going over your overall oversight report and so forth. And so we already have that as part of the record, and we would be very pleased to hear from both of you chairman, Mr. Lucas, and Ranking Member Mr. Peterson.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. FRANK LUCAS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. LUCAS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, members of the committee for this opportunity to visit with you today. I appreciate Ranking Member Collin Peterson joining me to outline the committee's proposed budget for the next 2 years. As you all know, we have a long and proud history of bipartisan cooperation on the House Agriculture Committee. I plan to continue that spirit of cooperation as we proceed with the work of the committee in the 112th Congress.

In addition to the bipartisanship, the Agriculture Committee has a strong history of fiscal responsibility, modest spending and cooperative nature of our committees. The committee spans back more than two decades under control of both parties.

Even though we have a significant workload ahead of us in this Congress, we are proposing a budget reduction for the 112th Congress. The resources provided us will allow us to proceed with a very aggressive, robust oversight agenda. As outlined in our oversight plan, we plan to conduct oversight hearings, both here and across the country on a variety of issues, from USDA's GIPSA regulation to the EPA regulations on Atrazine, spray drift, dust, watersheds, just to name a few.

In addition, we have an extensive series of oversight hearings on Dodd-Frank implementation. And, over the past several months, the CFTC and other Federal financial regulators have engaged in writing an unprecedented number of new regulations for the derivative markets. Since September alone, the CFTC has issued 39 new rule proposals involving thousands of pages of regulations. By comparison, before Dodd-Frank, the CFTC averaged only five rules per year. We will keep a watchful eye on these regulations as we move forward to make sure that they do not impose unnecessary or undue regulations on our financial system and economy.

Finally, we will utilize our resources to begin the process of writing the 2012 farm bill. We plan to conduct a comprehensive audit of all farm programs through an extensive series of hearings this year. This will be a top-to-bottom examination of how farm programs are working. We want to know if the programs that are implemented as intended by Congress, which programs are duplica-

tive, and whether the programs have outlived their usefulness. We also intend to do a series of farm bill hearings across the country. Taking the committee into the field is an invaluable part of the process of writing farm bills.

Between the two of us, Collin and I have 23 new members on our committee, that is half the body, and feel it is important to expose them to as much as possible about farm bill programs before we write the next farm bill.

Mr. Chairman, we truly have our work cut out for us in this Congress. But we firmly believe we can accomplish all of this on fewer resources than we have had in the past Congress. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our budget request, and let us know in whatever way we can provide additional information.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Lucas follows:]

Testimony of Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank D. Lucas House Administration Hearing on Committee Budgets March 1, 2011

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today. I appreciate Ranking Member Collin Peterson joining me to outline our Committee's proposed budget for the next two years. As you all know, we have a long and proud history of bipartisan cooperation, and I plan to continue that spirit of cooperation as we proceed with the work of the Committee in the 112th Congress.

In addition to bipartisanship, the Agriculture Committee has a strong history of fiscal responsibility. The modest spending and cooperative nature of our Committee spans back more than two decades, under the control of both parties.

Even though we have a significant workload ahead of us this Congress, we are proposing a budget reduction for the 112th Congress. The resources provided to us will allow us to proceed with a very aggressive, robust oversight agenda as outlined in our oversight plan.

We plan to conduct oversight hearings – both here and across the country – on a wide variety of issues including USDA's GIPSA regulation as well as EPA's regulations on Atrazine, spray drift, dust, and watersheds just to name a few.

In addition, we will have an extensive series of oversight hearings on Dodd-Frank implementation. Over the past several months, the CFTC and other federal financial regulators have been engaged in writing unprecedented new regulations over the derivatives markets. Since September alone, the CFTC has issued 39 new rule proposals involving thousands of pages of regulation. By comparison, before Dodd-Frank, the CFTC average only about five rules per year. We will keep a watchful eye on these regulations as they move forward to make sure that they do not impose unnecessary or undue regulations on our financial system and economy.

Finally, we will utilize our resources to begin the process of writing the 2012 Farm Bill. We plan to conduct a comprehensive audit of all the farm programs through an extensive series of hearings this year. This will be a top to bottom examination of how the farm programs are working. We want to know if the programs were implemented as intended by Congress, which programs are duplicative, and whether the programs have outlived their usefulness.

We also intend to do a series of Farm Bill hearings across the country. Taking the Committee into the field is an invaluable part of the process of writing farm bills. We have 23 new members on our Committee and feel that it important to expose them to as much as possible about the farm bill programs before we write the next Farm Bill.

Mr. Chairman, we truly have our work cut out for us this Congress. But we firmly believe that we can accomplish all of this on fewer resources than we had in the last Congress. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our budget request. Please let us know if we can provide you any additional information.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Peterson.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. COLLIN PETERSON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Mr. PETERSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. And I am pleased to be here today in support of the Agriculture Committee's budget request. As Chairman Lucas has said, the Ag Committee has a history of working in a bipartisan fashion. And it is not always easy, but we work very hard to listen to each other and understand each other, and I think we have been successful in that regard.

The proposed reduction in the budget submission will require some belt tightening, but I am confident that the committee can get its work done. As Chairman Lucas has outlined, there are a lot of challenges before us, including the program oversight, the farm bill preparation, overseeing the implementation of the financial reform legislation we passed in the last Congress. I think that is necessary.

And you know, I am not a big fan of regulation, but in this case, these are things that have to be done to make sure that we don't get into another situation where the public has to bail out these large financial institutions.

I also look forward to the committee's hearings to review EPA regulations. Personally, I think the EPA just doesn't get it. And frankly, my folks and myself are getting kind of sick of those outside of Agriculture telling farmers how to do their jobs. So I think we need to address some of these issues this year as well.

So I look forward to working with Chairman Lucas this Congress, and appreciate your consideration of the Ag Committee's budget request.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

[The statement of Mr. Peterson follows:]

Testimony of Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Collin C. Peterson House Administration Hearing on Committee Budgets March 1, 2011

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am pleased to be here today in support of the Agriculture Committee's budget request. As Chairman Lucas has said, the Agriculture Committee has a history of working in a bipartisan fashion. It's not always easy, but we work very hard to listen to each other and understand each other. The proposed reduction in the budget submission will require some belt-tightening but I am confident that the committee can get its work done.

As Chairman Lucas has outlined, there are a lot of challenges before us, including program oversight and farm bill preparation. Overseeing implementation of the financial reform legislation we passed last Congress will be necessary. I'm not a big fan of regulation, but in this case, these are things that have to be done to make sure that we don't get into another situation where the public has to bail out these large financial firms.

I also look forward to the Committee's hearings to review EPA regulations. Personally, I think the EPA just doesn't get it and I'm frankly getting sick of those outside of agriculture telling farmers how to do their jobs. We need to address these issues this year.

I look forward to working with Chairman Lucas this Congress and appreciate your consideration of the Agriculture Committee's budget request.

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 108

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Agriculture in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Mr. LUCAS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Agriculture in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Agriculture (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $12,235,047 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $6,189,494 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $6,045,553 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

○

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have the one-third, two-thirds split on staff allocation?

Mr. LUCAS. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. And you are pleased with that, Mr. Peterson? In terms of cutting back 5 percent on the overall budget, what kind of decisions did you make? Were they in the area of personnel? Were they in the area of travel? Was it modernization of your computers or what was it?

Mr. LUCAS. Basically on our side of the room we just looked at across the board, everything, dialing down.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. PETERSON. I am sorry. I didn't hear what the chairman said. But we have given back over 5 percent of our budget the last, I think, since I have been chairman. So, you know, I am not one to spend money just because it is there.

The CHAIRMAN. And you are courageous to admit it.

Mr. PETERSON. Well, and so we feel like, you know, this budget will work, given what—you know, we wrote a farm bill during that time, we wrote title 7 of the Dodd-Frank bill, you know, we did a lot of work, and we had adequate resources and good people and I think it will work.

The CHAIRMAN. Where are you in the area of technology with respect to your committee? Are you up to date with it? We have had a couple of committees come in and talk about how they made themselves more efficient by actually upgrading their technology in the last Congress. Has that been an issue with your committee?

Mr. LUCAS. Both under Chairman Peterson and the months that I have been chairman, I think we have been very aggressive. We did livecasts of our hearings when we were in the field last year. We do live broadcasts now of all of our hearings when we are in the committee. I think we are current.

Mr. PETERSON. Yeah, we put quite a bit of money into getting the IT stuff up to speed. And I think at the last year, I had even spent less money. We gave a considerable amount back. But we also spent some money at the end of the year to even to further upgrades. So as far as I know, we are really up to speed on everything we need to do. And we have invested a lot of money and then been able to give money back besides.

The CHAIRMAN. Very good. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. No, I appreciate that there is a spirit of collaboration between the chair and ranking member, that we have got this traditional split and that seems to be working well. So I don't have any additional questions, and I thank them for their time and willingness to share their plans for the future.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. I do. Thank you for being here. I really appreciate the cooperation that both of you have shown to each other, particularly in the mission as it relates to agriculture, and obviously the workforce. But the ranking member, I liked your pronouncement on the EPA. You know, Florida is facing a numeric nutrient issue in regards to just lousy science. And so I appreciate your committee doing aggressive oversight particularly as it relates it EPA. The same with the, what is it, the dust that cattle kick up. I have a few folks that are——

Mr. PETERSON. Well, that and methane flatulation.

Mr. NUGENT. Yeah. I would like to know how you are going to control that. I appreciate your candor and I appreciate your interest in really doing oversight as it relates to EPA. I appreciate that. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Thank you very much. We appreciate it. Thanks for your cooperation on a bipartisan basis.

We are a little ahead of schedule, Mr. Miller, and we are calling Mr. Filner's office to see if he is on his way. Thank you, Mr. Filner, for showing up a little early. We actually are going through this a little faster than we thought. So we appreciate it. We have the written submissions from the committee outlining personnel, outlining your oversight plans, if I can get the right binder here. And the other submissions you put. So we have that for our record. We have your written submitted statements, and we look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JEFF MILLER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Ms. Lofgren, it is a pleasure to appear before you today. I am here with ranking member Bob Filner. Our committee request does reflect, in fact, a 5 percent decrease in the total amount of the 111th Congress budget for VA. As you know, our committee has oversight over the Department of Veterans Affairs, the second largest Federal agency with roughly 300,000 employees and a budget of roughly $125 billion. We have an aggressive oversight plan. We have already engaged in several oversight hearings, including but not limited to ensuring proper implementation of the new law pertaining to veterans caregivers, assessing the effectiveness of programs aimed at helping veterans locate and retain post-service employment, ensuring the highest quality treatment and care while preserving patient safety and employing effective and efficient use of information technology to improve delivery of care and services.

Our committee budget for this year is just under $7.3 million. I think it is a move towards spending restraint that is required in these times, but will allow us the ability to hire and retain top-notch professional staff to assist our committee as we pursue this aggressive oversight plan in support of our Nation's most treasured assets, our veterans.

The committee's request allows us to work towards a goal of ensuring that the Nation's veterans and their family members and survivors who have access to the VA receive the highest quality of care and services, and we hope you will look favorably on our disciplined request.

Travel funds will be used to perform oversight over some of the 1,000 VA hospitals, outpatient clinics, nursing homes, national cemeteries and Regional Benefits Processing Centers within the VA system. Our request for travel funds is extremely modest and is the same figure from the previous Congress.

Mr. Chairman, you may or may not be aware that the vast majority of the committee travel in which our members engage is actually funded by VA, the very agency over which we are charged with oversight. I have some concerns about the functionality of this

arrangement in some instances and would welcome the opportunity to visit with you further about that.

The committee's request for equipment funds is one-third what was requested in the 111th Congress. In an effort at efficiency, the committee will only make major purchases when absolutely necessary. Additionally, software will be purchased on an as-needed basis in order to maintain House technical standards.

Our budget submission assumes the maintenance of current staff at a ceiling number of 36. Administratively, the majority and the minority will maintain the long-standing two-thirds, one-third resource policy with the minority controlling its very own payroll budget.

Mr. Chairman, this is a small committee charged with awesome responsibility, oversight of those who care and provide services for our Nation's warriors and their families. We are committed to working efficiently to ensure that VA delivers on its mission to care for those who have borne the battle and their widows and their orphans.

I take great pride in the privilege of having the opportunity to serve as chairman on Veterans Affairs, and it is now my honor to continue my service on the committee since I came to Congress. You have my assurance that we will account for and stretch every dollar afforded to us as we out-stride the expectations that have been placed upon us. And I and my ranking member would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

[The statement of Mr. Miller of Florida follows:]

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN JEFF MILLER BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 1, 2010

- **Thank you Chairman Lungren and Ranking Member Brady for this opportunity to appear before your committee to discuss the Committee on Veterans' Affairs budget for the 112th Congress. Ranking Member Bob Filner joins me here today in support of the Committee's request.**

- **As you know, the Committee has oversight over the Department of Veterans Affairs. VA is the second largest federal agency, employing nearly 300,000 with a current budget of roughly $125 billion dollars.**

- **The committee has an aggressive plan of action and is already engaged in oversight in several of the many areas included in its Oversight Plan, including:**
    - **Ensuring proper implementation of new law pertaining to veterans' caregivers;**
    - **Assessing the effectiveness of programs aimed at helping veterans locate and retain post-service employment;**
    - **Ensuring the highest-quality treatment and care, while preserving patient safety;**
    - **Employing effective and efficient use of Information Technology to improve the delivery of care and services, and more.**

- **The VA Committee's total budget request for the 112th Congress of just under $7.3 million represents the move toward spending restraint that is required in these times, but will allow us the capability to hire and retain top-notch professional staff to assist Committee members as we pursue this aggressive oversight plan in support of our nation's most treasured assets: its veterans.**

- **The Committee's request allows us to work toward the goal of ensuring that the nation's veterans, and their family members and survivors who access the VA, receive the highest quality of care and services.**

- **We hope you will look favorably on our disciplined request.**

Travel:

- **Travel funds will provide a start toward the Committee performing oversight over some of the 1,000 VA hospitals, outpatient clinics, nursing homes, national cemeteries and regional benefits processing offices within the VA system. Our request for travel funds is extremely modest, and is the same figure requested in the previous Congress.**
    - **Mr. Chairman, you may or may not be aware that the vast majority of the Committee travel in which our Members engage is funded by VA, the very agency over which we are charged with oversight. I have some concerns about the functionality of this arrangement in some instances, and would welcome the opportunity to visit with you about that.**

Equipment:

- **The Committee's request for equipment funds is one-third of what was requested in the 111th Congress. In an effort at efficiency, the Committee will only make major purchases when absolutely necessary. Additionally, computer software will be purchased on an as-needed basis in order to maintain House technical standards.**

Staffing:

- **This budget submission assumes the maintenance of the current staff ceiling number of 36. Administratively, the Majority and the Minority will maintain the long-standing two-thirds to one-third resources policy, with the Minority controlling its own payroll budget.**

Closing:

- **Mr. Chairman, this is a small Committee charged with awesome responsibility: oversight of those who care and provide services for, our nation's warriors, and their families.**

- **We are committed to working efficiently to ensure that VA delivers on its mission: to care for those who have borne the battle, and their widows and orphans.**

- **Mr. Chairman, I take great pride in the privilege of having served on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs since coming to Congress, and it is now my honor to lead as Chairman. You have my assurance that we will account for, and stretch, every dollar afforded us as we out-stride the expectations placed upon us.**

- **I am happy to answer any questions you have.**

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Filner.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. BOB FILNER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. FILNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ms. Lofgren. Some of you may remember this committee had a few problems at this similar hearing over the last couple of times. I would just like to assure you that you will not have to see any of those problems this Congress. The chairman and I have established a very good working relationship, bolstered with informal conversations, and I am in complete support of the committee's request. Thank you so much.

[The statement of Mr. Filner follows:]

STATEMENT OF RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER BOB FILNER BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 1, 2011

- Thank you Chairman Lungren and Ranking Member Brady for this opportunity to appear before your committee to discuss the Committee on Veterans' Affairs budget for the 112th Congress. I am pleased to join Chairman Miller here today in support of the Committee's request.

- As you know, the Committee has oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA is the second largest federal agency, employing almost 300,000 people with a budget authority of over $120 billion dollars.

- The Committee's budget request provides us with the capability to retain the finest professional staff while pursuing an aggressive agenda in support of our nation's veterans.

- Mr. Chairman as you know, today the men and women of our Nation's military remain deployed overseas as they have during

the last 9 years of this war. And like the VA, this committee's requirements to our veterans have grown over that time as we work to address longstanding issues from past wars while striving to provide the increasing resources necessary for those fighting the current conflicts.

- And while we can always use more resources, at the Committee and at the VA, this budget request does allow us to continue to provide the oversight and direction to ensure veterans, family members and survivors, who access the VA, receive the highest quality care and services. History has shown us that the needs of our newest veterans will continue long after Iraq and Afghanistan. It is our moral obligation to care for them when they come home, something that we have not always done in the past.

- Secretary Shinseki, when testifying before the Committee earlier this month said: "Not upholding these obligations in the past has left at least one generation of Veterans struggling in anonymity for decades. We, who sent them, owe them better."

- Mr. Chairman and members, we are a small committee…with a correspondingly small budget when compared to some. And yet, as a small committee, we continue to work diligently with our

resources to improve the lives of our veterans and their families. I personally think that there is no better value in our Congressional budget than funding the policies and initiatives that help our Nation uphold our sacred trust to our heroes.

- Again Mr. Chairman, I support this budget and I am happy to answer any questions you might have today.

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 113

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $7,285,256.45 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $3,602,744.75 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $3,682,511.70 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee, signed by the Chairman of the Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

○

The CHAIRMAN. I appreciate that. Having just returned from a trip to New Zealand and Australia where I managed to be able to observe with other members the questioning period of the prime minister of Australia, which reminded me of the hearing that we had of this committee last year, this is less colorful than last year's, but we appreciate the spirit of bipartisanship.

And Mr. Chairman, we appreciate you anticipating a number of our questions in outlining exactly how you are dealing with the 5 percent cut. And you have answered the question, but I will just ask it again.

Given the fact that we have accepted a 5 percent cut and we believe as a Congress that that is necessary as reflected in the overall vote, do you feel confident you can fulfill the oversight responsibilities for the Veterans Administration that you are charged with with the resources that you have?

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I do. Within the 5 percent decrease, we did decrease some salary numbers and equipment purchases. Again, the only area that is not reflected in our budget, obviously, is that travel number. So that is the one that concerns me. I believe it has been a longstanding practice, but it is one that, I think, it is probably time to take a look at it.

The CHAIRMAN. And Mr. Filner, are you satisfied with the ratio of staff resources and the split of the funding in the committee?

Mr. FILNER. Oh, no, I think they should be 50/50.

The CHAIRMAN. Other than that.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Here we go.

Mr. FILNER. I mean, no, I am not happy with it, but that is the rule so, you know, we work with what we have got.

The CHAIRMAN. You are more unhappy with it this year than you were last year?

Mr. FILNER. Damn right.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. First, it is good to see that there is agreement and that you are working together on these important issues that we face. I just wanted, before you even mentioned the travel budget, I was thinking about the travel budget because, as you both recognize, it is important to get out in the field and see what is going on, especially when it comes to medical care for veterans. And I am concerned, obviously we are cutting all of the budgets and I think that is right. Nobody is disagreeing with that. But it would be a concern if the VA had a veto over what the Congress was going to take a look at. And now is the time to talk about additional funding. I mean, there isn't another time to talk about it. And I don't know if that has ever happened. But it really does come to the issue of the separation of powers and our need to freely oversee what is going on. Is that the concern that you have, Chairman Miller or Mr. Filner?

Mr. MILLER of Florida. It is. And I don't know if that has ever been a problem where the committee has been prevented from going somewhere, but my concern also is alerting the VA from time to time where the committee may choose to go and having enough time to fix a potential problem before the committee actually arrives. I will tell you that 2011, the VA Office of Congressional Affairs travel budget is $270,000, on which the Senate and the House

both travel extensively. The request this year is for $274,000. This reflects an increase from the 2009 budget to current year of 143 percent. But, again, I mean, we get basically $50,000 a year allocated to us for committee only travel without the VA. So it has not posed a problem that I am aware of. But the potential is there.

Mr. FILNER. I would agree with the chairman. I mean, nobody that I know of has ever been prevented from traveling. It does result—and I say this against my own interest at this moment. But in terms of the separation of powers and also the majority control by the majority party, the executive department in the hands of the other party can fund things for the minority without approval—and I don't think that is right. I think it happened when we were in the majority, I think there were a couple of years we were in the majority in the Congress, but the executive branch was controlled by the other party and I think the minority staff was able to travel without going through me as the chair.

And the chairman and I talked about this, and he is rightfully concerned, I mean, that, he has got to have, he has got to know what is going on here and he can't go around it. And I think that is a problem rather than any veto.

Ms. LOFGREN. And that is not your intention to do that I gather.

Mr. FILNER. No. In fact, we have formalized an agreement where we will not go on any travel without him knowing it, for example. But it does raise this question. And I think it is just wrong on principle, because it affects, you know, whoever of us happens not to be in the majority or can do things which I think violate the principle that we have established with majority control of the House.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Chairman, since there has not been a request for an enhanced budget, maybe what we can simply do is recognize that Mr. Filner and Mr. Miller have reached an agreement to make sure that there is nothing untoward that happens, as could happen, and then——

Mr. FILNER. I think it did when I was chair.

Ms. LOFGREN. Well, we don't want to revisit that. There is an agreement that everything is going to be above board. That is the way it should be. And to make sure that if there is ever a case where the committee is not freely choosing its oversight, that you would certainly let the committee know that.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Absolutely.

The CHAIRMAN. Actually, this is the first time it has been brought up to my attention, and I don't know whether this occurs in any other oversight responsibility.

Ms. LOFGREN. Well, Defense and Armed Services.

Mr. FILNER. I suspect it is more widespread than we know about because I think the executive branch wants to, without going into psych ops, wants to be able to take people there and see what it wants to, whatever department you are in. And if you are in the majority in one thing and the minority in another, it can present a problem.

The CHAIRMAN. Sure. It is also the responsibility of members to be tough enough to ask the questions that need to be asked and look at the places that need to be looked at.

Mr. Rokita.

Mr. ROKITA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any questions. I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their attendance. And I would say for the record that I am the new Congressman from Indiana's fourth Congressional district, and apparently I have missed something in the transfer memo that was left in my office because I should be more active in this.

Mr. FILNER. We thank the Lord.

Mr. ROKITA. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. I just want to thank both of you for the very important work that you do, particularly as it relates to our veterans. And I have made a number of visits to clinics and the veterans hospital in Tampa and going up to Gainesville. You do a great job. The veterans hospital in Tampa, Haley, has 92 construction projects going on at one time, trying to update that facility to give our veterans the best possible care they can get.

Just one question, though, in reference to the veterans caregivers. Has that started? I know it was passed and funded, but has that actually started?

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I think VA would tell you that it has started. The only thing that actually has started, I think, is a toll free number that they can contact. We are not pleased at all with the roll-out of the program. What they are calling a start was 3 months late. And I think the unfortunate thing is that we still don't know what caregivers are going to get funded, at what levels, and there are people that are in serious need. And the intent of this Congress was that it be utilized for OEF, OIF veterans. There is some discussion among VA as to instead of stacking it downward and seeing how deep it can go, to see how far they can stretch it. Our intent when the legislation was passed was to be able to handle those caregivers that are dealing with the issues that are new, happening today. And there are a lot of caregivers that are awaiting the opportunity to receive funding. And I think the Secretary understands that. We have had some very frank discussions with him. He is very receptive.

Mr. NUGENT. I would hope you continue that aggressive oversight.

Mr. FILNER. And I think that the chairman is too modest here. The first oversight hearing we are having that he has set up is on this issue. It is next week, I think, right?

Mr. MILLER of Florida. It is.

Mr. NUGENT. I appreciate that. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, gentlemen, for your presentation and the spirit of cooperation expressed here. And we hope we will be able to revisit next year and we will have the same sort of——

Mr. FILNER. Thank you. And you have agreed on the 50/50 funding, I take it.

The CHAIRMAN. If we are in the minority, I would absolutely agree on the 50/50. That is all for today. And we will resume our hearing tomorrow with the remaining committees.

[Whereupon, at 5:27 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]