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113th Congress, 1st Session – – – – – – – – – – – House Report 113–23

OVERSIGHT PLANS

FOR ALL

HOUSE COMMITTEES

BY THE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Required by House Rule X, Clause 2(d)(2))

MARCH 25, 2013.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with clause 2(d)(2) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I respectfully submit the oversight plans of each committee.

Sincerely,

DARRELL E. ISSA,
Chairman.

Union Calendar No. 11

113TH CONGRESS, *1st Session* | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | REPORT 113–23

OVERSIGHT PLANS FOR ALL HOUSE COMMITTEES

MARCH 25, 2013.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. DARRELL E. ISSA, from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, submitted the following

R E P O R T

OVERSIGHT IN THE 113TH CONGRESS

[The oversight plans of all House committees follow:]

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

FEBRUARY 13, 2013.

To: The Honorable Darrell Issa, Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
The Honorable Candice S. Miller, Chairman, Committee on House Administration

From: The Honorable Frank D. Lucas, Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture

Date: February 13, 2013

Subject: Oversight Plan for the House Committee on Agriculture for the 113th Congress

Pursuant to Rule X, clause 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 113th Congress, I submit the following plan to fulfill the General Oversight Responsibilities reporting requirements. This outline was prepared in consultation with the Ranking Member, was presented to the full committee for its consideration, and is now offered for your consideration relative to your responsibilities under the rules.

The following agenda constitutes the oversight plan of the Committee on Agriculture for the 113th Congress. It includes areas in which the committee and its subcommittees expect to conduct oversight or investigation of additional matters or programs as they arise. The committee will consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share subject matter interest. If you have any questions regarding this outline, do not hesitate to contact me.

FRANK D. LUCAS,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

The committee expects to exercise appropriate oversight activity with regard to the following issues:

2008 FARM BILL AND CURRENT AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS

- Review the current state of the U.S. farm economy;
- Review the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) implementation of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) as extended;
- Review policy proposals regarding farm bill development;
- Review programs that may be inefficient, duplicative, outdated or more appropriately administered by State or local governments for possible cuts or elimination;
- Review programs for waste, fraud and abuse;
- Review USDA's initial and subsequent implementation of FCEA payment limit and adjusted gross income provisions;
- Review the state of credit conditions and availability in rural America;
- Review the impact of weather conditions on crop production;
- Review USDA's activities regarding implementation of the U.S. Warehouse Act;
- Review USDA's implementation of actively-engaged rules;
- Review of market situation, including impact of crop reports and projections;
- Review USDA's implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act;
- Review USDA's implementation of the Fair and Equitable Tobacco Reform Act of 2004;
- Review the impact of the potential sequestration order on programs and activities authorized by the Agriculture Committee;
- Review how Administrative Pay-Go is affecting Department actions; and
- Review discretionary actions by USDA that are not directly authorized by legislation.

ENERGY

- Assess energy programs authorized by FCEA;
- Review administration of the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP);
- Review activities funded by the Biomass Research and Development Act (BRDA) and input from the external BRDA Advisory Board;
- Review availability of agriculture and forestry feedstocks for renewable energy production;
- Review current status of research on energy crops and feedstocks;

• Review RUS electric loan program;
• Review electricity reliability in rural America;
• Review current provisions in existing law that support agriculture-based energy production and use;
• Review the implementation of the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS);
• Review programs that may be inefficient, duplicative, outdated or more appropriately administered by State or local governments for possible cuts or elimination;
• Review renewable fuel programs and their impact on agriculture; and
• Review USDA's energy infrastructure initiative.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

• Review the impact of regulatory activities by the EPA and its effect on agriculture productivity;
• Review the impact of regulatory activities carried out pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), or any proposed legislative changes to such Act, on agricultural producers;
• Review the impact of the Administration's regulatory activity relative to methyl bromide on production of agriculture in the U.S.;
• Review any proposed legislation to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior

Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;
• Review the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
• Review budget and program activities of the NRCS;
• Review implementation of all of USDA's conservation programs;
• Review NRCS's efforts to streamline program delivery and field operations;
• Review conservation streamlining initiatives to eliminate duplicative and overlapping programs;
• Review programs that may be inefficient, duplicative, outdated or more appropriately administered by State or local governments for possible cuts or elimination;
• Review EPA's jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its impact to U.S. agriculture;
• Review of potential impacts of EPA's Clean Air Act (CAA) regulatory program on U.S. agriculture;
• Review ongoing discussions and potential consequences for American agriculture under the United Nations Climate Change Conference;
• Review EPA's implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), FIFRA and Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act (PRIA III);
• Review the impact of litigation and rulemaking concerning FIFRA, ESA, CAA, CWA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Emer-

gency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and for impacts agricultural operations;

• Review the EPA's regulatory actions in regard to pesticide evaluations;

• Review EPA's regulation of Animal Feeding Operations;

• Review the non-emergency haying and grazing provisions of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); and

• Review Total Maximum Daily Load strategies and impacts on production agriculture.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

• Review USDA's implementation of crop insurance provisions of the FCEA;

• Review the role and effectiveness of Federal Crop Insurance;

• Review USDA's and the Risk Management Agency's (RMA) administration and oversight of Federal Crop Insurance;

• Review the availability of crop insurance as a risk management tool;

• Review of the adequacy and availability of risk management tools for the livestock and dairy industries;

• Review programs that may be inefficient, duplicative, outdated or more appropriately administered by State or local governments for possible cuts or elimination;

• Review USDA's activities designed to find and reduce crop insurance waste, fraud, and abuse;

• Review USDA's crop insurance rating methodology and management of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) process;

• Review RMA's combination of revenue protection crop insurance products;

• Review RMA's progress in approving crop insurance products for underserved commodities;

IMPLEMENTATION OF TITLE VII OF THE DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

• In its review of rulemakings required by Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111–203)(Dodd-Frank Act), the Committee will continue to ensure:

(1) The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rulemaking process is transparent and that meaningful comment is allowed by the public;

(2) An adequate cost-benefit analysis is performed by the CFTC for each proposed or finalized rule;

(3) The CFTC and SEC properly coordinate with both domestic and international financial regulators;

(4) Past exemptive relief orders or no action letters issued by the CFTC and SEC provide the proper relief for market participants;

(5) Any final or proposed regulations have not harmed or adversely impacted the U.S. economy or financial markets, including the impact on jobs and competitiveness; and

• The Committee will examine how Title VII rulemakings have impacted U.S. market structure.

• The Committee will also examine the developing impact of pending CFTC, SEC, and Prudential Regulator regulations, such as the imposition of new margin and capital requirements, and how they affect the ability of many "end-users" to utilize swaps to hedge against legitimate business risks.

• The Committee will examine the level of coordination between U.S. and international regulators for potential impacts on U.S. financial institutions compared to their foreign counterparts.

• The Committee will examine the feasibility of timetables established by the Dodd-Frank Act in building the data, technology and connectivity necessary to meet regulatory objectives.

THE U.S. COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION AND OVERSIGHT OF THE DERIVATIVES MARKETS

• Review the operations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC);

• Review the growing consolidation and internationalization of futures exchange trading;

• Review market machinations for exchange traded energy and agricultural future products;

• Review enforcement and oversight capabilities of the CFTC both domestically and internationally;

• The Committee will continue to examine how the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and futures industry as a whole has addressed the MF Global and PFGBest bankruptcies from both an enforcement and regulatory reform standpoint to ensure that proper remedial action is taken to prevent future losses to segregated funds of customers.

• In light of the Commodity Exchange Act statutory authorization of the CFTC expiring at the end of FY2013, the Committee will continue to examine all sectors of the U.S. derivatives and futures markets, including, but not limited to: exchange or swap execution facility trading; the roles of dealers, inter-dealer brokers, data repositories, and clearinghouses; trade and price reporting; and proposals aimed at protecting the segregated funds of futures customers.

• The Committee will continue to examine the ongoing investigation and enforcement action by the CFTC and other federal regulators with respect to the manipulation of the London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR).

• The Committee will review all operations of the CFTC, including: a continued examination whether the cost-benefit analysis required by section 15a of the CEA is adequate with respect to proposed and finalized rules; the efficiency of internal Commission actions; and the enforcement and oversight capabilities of the CFTC both domestically and internationally.

AGRICULTURE TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID

• Review domestic subsidies and protection currently applied by agricultural product producing countries around the world;

• Review ongoing multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade negotiations (including WTO accession agreements) to assess their potential impact on U.S. agriculture;

• Review implementation of existing trade agreements and commitments as well as proposed new trade agreements and commitments to determine—

(1) whether they are consistent with current U.S. law;
(2) whether they will promote economic development in rural areas of the U.S.;
(3) their impact or potential impact on current production of import sensitive agricultural commodities, and on exports of U.S. agricultural products;
(4) their impact or potential impact on the overall competitiveness of the U.S. agricultural sector, including the production, processing and distribution of agricultural products; and
(5) whether they provide adequate, enforceable provisions to minimize non-tariff barriers to U.S. exports.

• Monitor existing trade agreements to ensure trading partners are meeting obligations and enforcing trade commitments;

• Review farm export programs to determine how well they are promoting the interests of U.S. agriculture and examine proposals to improve, modify or expand such programs;

• Review U.S. food aid programs to determine their impact or potential impact on the reduction of world hunger. In particular, the committee will examine the potential impact of multilateral trade negotiations on the effectiveness of U.S. food aid programs;

• Review monitoring and evaluation activities carried out by USDA and USAID; and

• Review sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) barriers and other technical barriers to U.S. agricultural exports and examine USDA efforts to eliminate such barriers.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND PROMOTION

• Review implementation of biosecurity protocols at USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) laboratories;

• Review USDA's implementation of research, education and extension programs authorized in FCEA;

• Review the administration of the ARS research stations and worksites;

• Review USDA's continuing ability to conduct foreign animal disease research, training and diagnostic programs at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility following the transfer of the center to the Department of Homeland Security;

• Assess federal efforts to facilitate research and development of aquacultural enterprises, specifically focusing on the activities of the Joint Committee on Aquaculture;

• Review USDA's regulation on organic standards;

• Review USDA's collection of organic production and market data;

• Review administration of National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA);

• Review the administration of the Agricultural Food Research Initiative;

• Review efforts to leverage Federal research investment with state, local, and private sources of funding;

• Review coordination between ARS, Economic Research Service (ERS), NIFA and action agencies in USDA—such as NRCS and FSA—in order to prevent duplicative research;
• Review operation of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board;
• Review USDA's efforts to expand research and development of pathogen reduction technologies;
• Review the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) findings regarding cloned animal products;
• Evaluate the current mix of research funding mechanisms to ensure maximum benefits from these investments to producers, processors and consumers;
• Review administration of USDA's agricultural marketing and promotion programs;
• Review coordination between USDA and DOE on energy research programs;
• Review congressional appropriation process and implications on research funding under ARS, ERS, NASS and NIFA;
• Review ARS, ERS, NASS and NIFA national program priorities;
• Oversight of research grant process to coordinate and prevent overlapping research; and
• Review the potential for research and technology transfer to address the needs of both the biofuels and livestock industries.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

• Review current regulations and research regarding animal and plant biotechnology;
• Review the FDA's regulatory activities regarding genetically engineered animals;
• Assess USDA's efforts to develop and promote benefits of biotechnology for increasing agricultural productivity and combating hunger globally;
• Review USDA's management and controls over biotechnology-derived material; and
• Review the impact of litigation on USDA's timeliness in resolving petitions to deregulate products of biotechnology.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

• Review U.S. Forest Service (USFS) strategy for dealing with wildfire for coming years, including the impact of hazardous fuels management, forest health efforts and fire preparedness;
• Continue to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the Forest Service fire management program;
• Review the impact of fire expenses on other USFS program delivery;
• Assess the USFS strategy for timber harvesting on federal lands;
• Review impacts of environmental regulations on National Forest land management;
• Review economic impacts of National Forest land management on rural communities ; and
• Review USFS efforts to promote utilization of National Forest timber for renewable energy purposes.

DAIRY

• Review options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of dairy programs; and
• Review efficiency of federal market order system.

OUTREACH AND CIVIL RIGHTS

• Review implementation of Section 14012 of the FCEA;
• Review the operations of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach;
• Monitor USDA's outreach efforts to beginning, small and minority farmers/ranchers;
• Review of the operations of the office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights;
• Review USDA's process for settling discrimination claims and evaluating individual claims submitted pursuant to such settlements;
• Review the delivery of USDA services and outreach efforts on Indian reservations and tribal lands;
• Review implementation of Section 14003 of the FCEA;
• Review current status of Agricultural Census and efforts to reach undercounted farmers and ranchers; and
• Review participation of minority farmers in FSA County/Local Committees as well as outreach to increase participation in County Committee elections.

USDA GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

• Review confidentiality of information provided to USDA by agricultural producers;
• Review USDA's implementation of field office consolidation for the purpose of effectively and efficiently delivering commodity, conservation, energy and rural development programs;
• Review agency appeals process and granting of equitable relief as well as operation of the National Appeals Division;
• Review USDA's efforts to modernize its Information Technology (IT) systems; and
• Review the administrative structure of USDA for effectiveness and additional efficiencies.

FARM CREDIT, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE RURAL ECONOMY

• Review Farm Credit Administration's (FCA) regulatory program and activities regarding the Farm Credit System (FCS) to assure the its safety and soundness;
• Review Farmer Mac activities and programs;
• Review FSA's direct and guaranteed loan programs and graduation efforts;
• Review the Rural Electrification Act (REA);
• Review the farm economy and access to credit;
• Review implementation of rural development policies and authorities contained in FCEA and the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act;
• Review programs that may be inefficient, duplicative, outdated or more appropriately administered by State or local governments for possible cuts or elimination;

• Conduct oversight of the USDA's Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program;
• Review USDA Rural Development application processes and internal controls related to both the Farm Bill and P.L. 111–5 (Recovery Act) Programs;
• Review administration of the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program;
• Conduct oversight of the implementation of the USDA's Telecommunications Programs;
• Review the status of the Rural Telephone Bank;
• Assess state of rural water systems and effectiveness of federal funding to build and upgrade those systems;
• Assess effectiveness of USDA programs targeted towards rural infrastructure;
• Review agriculture lending practices;
• Review public-private partnerships in lending through guaranteed loans;
• Review definition of "rural" under rural development programs; and
• Review rural development loan programs and default rates.

USDA FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS

• Review food and nutrition programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), fruit and vegetable initiatives, the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and other commodity distribution programs;
• Assess the level of participation by states in SNAP and examine state options for administering SNAP;
• Review participant eligibility criteria for SNAP;
• Review the interaction between SNAP and other low-income assistance programs such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and with provisions in the Affordable Care Act;
• Review SNAP work requirements and the efficiency and accountability of the SNAP Employment & Training program;
• Review efforts by USDA and the states to combat waste, fraud and abuse within nutrition programs;
• Review buying patterns of SNAP recipients and methods for encouraging balanced lifestyles;
• Review programs that may be inefficient, duplicative, outdated or more appropriately administered by State or local governments for possible cuts or elimination;
• Review efforts by state SNAP administrators to modernize and streamline their programs;
• Review the Community Food Project Program to ensure cooperative grants are working;
• Review the SNAP retailer approval process; and
• Review the implementation of changes made to the SNAP Nutrition Education Program.

SPECIALTY CROPS

• Review implementation of the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act;
• Assess operation of the Fruit and Vegetable (FAV) planting prohibition pilot program;
• Review the Specialty Crop Block Grant program to ensure that the grants awarded are enhancing the specialty crop industry;
• Review farmers market programs;
• Review implementation and effectiveness of cooperative plant health programs, including Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention and the Clean Plant Network; and
• Review the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

FOOD SAFETY

• Review implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act;
• Review implementation of the recent FDA Egg Safety Rule;
• Review USDA's administration of meat and poultry inspection laws and the FDA's food inspection activities to ensure the development of scientifically sound systems for food safety assurance;
• Review USDA's implementation of the catfish inspection program;
• Review USDA's efforts to educate consumers regarding safe food handling practices and streamline the assessment and approval of food safety technologies;
• Review implementation of new protocols for meat, poultry, eggs, or seafood safety inspection;
• Review USDA's enforcement of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act and humane handling regulations; and
• Review the mechanisms to establish scientifically based international food safety standards.

PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH

• Review enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act;
• Assess federal efforts to reduce threats to human, animal, and plant health due to predatory and invasive species;
• Review efforts of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to manage wildlife conflicts in order to protect public health and safety;
• Assess USDA's Animal Disease Traceability Plan; and
• Review implementation of Sec. 10201—Plant pest and disease management and disaster prevention.

LIVESTOCK MARKETING

• Assess the effectiveness of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) in determining market manipulation in the livestock industry;
• Review structural changes in agribusiness and the potential cost and benefits for agricultural producers; and
• Review the USDA's mandatory livestock price reporting system.

HOMELAND AND AGRICULTURAL SECURITY

• Oversight of USDA's preparedness against terrorist threats to agriculture production;
• Review cooperative efforts between the Department of Homeland Security and USDA to prevent against foreign animal disease; and
• Review agriculture inspection activities under the Department of Homeland Security.

MISCELLANEOUS

• Review the implementation and impact of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) on USDA programs;
• Review the impact of transportation infrastructure issues on agriculture and forestry; and
• Review USDA's implementation and enforcement of the country of origin labeling rule including actions taken by USDA to implement measures necessary to comply with the recommendations and rulings of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body on Certain Country of Origin Labeling Requirement.

CONSULTATION WITH OTHER COMMITTEES TO REDUCE DUPLICATION

• With Natural Resources Committee on forestry issues, ESA issues and other public land issues;
• With Science Committee on Research;
• With Ways and Means and Education and the Workforce on nutrition programs;
• With Ways and Means on trade issues;
• With Homeland Security on importation of animal and plant material and on research related to agroterrorism;
• With Judiciary on immigrant agricultural labor;
• With Energy and Commerce on food safety and biomass energy programs both existing and new;
• With Transportation and Infrastructure on CWA compliance issues;
• With Financial Services Committee on Dodd-Frank Act issues;
• With Foreign Affairs on food aid and trade issues;
• With Small Business on addressing economic opportunities for rural America; and
• With any other committee as appropriate.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 23, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL E. ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA: On behalf of the Committee on Appropriations, I hereby transmit the Committee's plan for Oversight activities for the 113th Congress, adopted by the Committee on January 23, 2013.

If you have any questions concerning this transmittal, please contact Mr. Dale Oak on my staff at 225–2771.

The Committee looks forward to working with all Members of the House of Representatives in order to fulfill our responsibilities under the Rules.

Sincerely,

HAROLD ROGERS,
Chairman.

113TH CONGRESS
1st Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

R E P O R T

OF

OVERSIGHT PLANS

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

PURSUANT TO CLAUSE 2(d)(1) of Rule X

APPROVED JANUARY 23, 2013

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

113th Congress

HAROLD ROGERS, Kentucky, *Chairman*

C. W. BILL YOUNG, Florida [1]
FRANK R. WOLF, Virginia
JACK KINGSTON, Georgia
RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN, New Jersey
TOM LATHAM, Iowa
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JAMIE HERRERA BEUTLER, Washington
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PETER J. VISCLOSKY, Indiana
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ROSA L. DELAURO, Connecticut
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ED PASTOR, Arizona
DAVID E. PRICE, North Carolina
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, California
SAM FARR, California
CHAKA FATTAH, Pennsylvania
SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., Georgia
BARBARA LEE, California
ADAM B. SCHIFF, California
MICHAEL M. HONDA, California
BETTY MCCOLLUM, Minnesota
TIM RYAN, Ohio
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Florida
HENRY CUELLAR, Texas
CHELLIE PINGREE, Maine
MIKE QUIGLEY, Illinois
WILLIAM L. OWENS, New York

[1] Chairman Emeritus

WILLIAM B. INGLEE, *Clerk and Staff Director*

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

JANUARY 23, 2013

Hon. Darrell E. Issa,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. Candice S. Miller,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA and CHAIRMAN MILLER: On behalf of the Committee on Appropriations, I hereby transmit the Committee's plan for Oversight activities for the 113th Congress. This year, the Committee intends to conduct increased oversight of Federal programs, policies and activities, especially with regard to unnecessary spending and duplication in Government programs. In addition, the Committee will carefully study the Administration's budget requests and fiscal and programmatic execution in light of budget constraints, changing demographics, shifting needs, and the priorities of the American people.

The Committee looks forward to working with all Members of the House of Representatives in order to fulfill our responsibilities under the Rules.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

HAROLD ROGERS, *Chairman*

113TH CONGRESS
1st Session } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF OVERSIGHT PLANS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

APPROVED JANUARY 23, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following

R E P O R T

OVERSIGHT PLANS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House requires each standing committee of the House to adopt oversight plans at the beginning of each Congress. Specifically, the Rule states in part:

> "Rule X, clause (2)(d)(1). Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, each standing committee shall, in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum present, adopt its oversight plan for that Congress. Such plan shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and to the Committee on House Administration."

JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Rule X of the Rules of the House vests in the Committee on Appropriations broad responsibility over the Federal budget. Specifically the Rule defines the Committee's jurisdiction, as follows:

> "Rule X clause 1(b). Committee on Appropriations.
>
> (1) Appropriation of the revenue for the support of the Government.
>
> (2) Rescissions of appropriations contained in appropriations Acts.

(3) Transfers of unexpended balances.

(4) Bills and joint resolutions reported by other committees that provide new entitlement authority as defined in section 3(9) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and referred to the committee under clause 4(a)(2)."

GENERAL OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES

"2. (a) The various standing committees shall have general oversight responsibilities as provided in paragraph (b) in order to assist the House in—

(1) its analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of (A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of Federal laws; and (B) conditions and circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; and

(2) its formulation, consideration, and enactment of such changes in Federal laws, and of such additional legislation, as may be necessary or appropriate.

(b)(1) In order to determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within the jurisdiction of a committee are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress and whether they should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated, each standing committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations) shall review and study on a continuing basis—

(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;

(B) the organization and operation of Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities for the administration and execution of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;

(C) any conditions or circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation addressing subjects within its jurisdiction (whether or not a bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto); and

(D) future research and forecasting on subjects within its jurisdiction."

SPECIAL OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS

"3. (a) The Committee on Appropriations shall conduct such studies and examinations of the organization and operation of executive departments and other executive agencies (including any agency the majority of the stock of which is owned by the United States) as it considers necessary to assist it in the determination of matters within its jurisdiction."

ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEES

"4. (a)(1)(A) The Committee on Appropriations shall, within 30 days after the transmittal of the budget to Congress each year, hold hearings on the budget as a whole with particular reference to—

(i) the basic recommendations and budgetary policies of the President in the presentation of the budget; and

(ii) the fiscal, financial, and economic assumptions used as bases in arriving at total estimated expenditures and receipts.

(B) In holding hearings under subdivision (A), the Committee shall receive testimony from the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and such other persons as the Committee may desire.

(C) A hearing under subdivision (A), or any part thereof, shall be held in open session, except when the committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by record vote that the testimony to be taken at that hearing on that day may be related to a matter of national security. The committee may by the same procedure close one subsequent day of hearing. A transcript of all such hearings shall be printed and a copy thereof furnished to each Member, Delegate, and the Resident Commissioner.

(D) A hearing under subdivision (A), or any part thereof, may be held before a joint meeting of the Committee and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate in accordance with such procedures as the two committees jointly may determine.

(2) Pursuant to section 401(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, when a committee reports a bill or joint resolution that provides new entitlement authority as defined in section 3(9) of that Act, and enactment of the bill or joint resolution, as reported, would cause a breach of the committee's pertinent allocation of new budget authority under section 302(a) of that Act, the bill or joint resolution may be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with instruction to report it with recommendations (which may include an amendment limiting the total amount of new entitlement authority provided in the bill or joint resolution). If the Committee on Appropriations fails to report a bill or joint resolution so referred within 15 calendar days (not counting any day on which the House is not in session), the committee automatically shall be discharged from consideration of the bill or joint resolution, and the bill or joint resolution shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(3) In addition, the Committee on Appropriations shall study on a continuing basis those provisions of law that (on the first day of the first fiscal year for which the congressional budget process is effective) provide spending authority or permanent budget authority and shall report to the House from time to time its recommendations for terminating or modifying such provisions.

(4) In the manner provided by section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee on Appropriations (after consulting with the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate) shall subdivide any allocations made to it in the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on such concurrent resolution, and promptly report the subdivisions to the House as soon as practicable after a concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year is agreed to."

Rule XIII of the Rules of the House prescribes special reporting requirements of the Committee on Appropriations. Specifically Rule XIII, clause 3(f) states:

CONTENT OF REPORTS

"(f)(1) A report of the Committee on Appropriations on a general appropriation bill shall include—

(A) a concise statement describing the effect of any provision of the accompanying bill that directly or indirectly changes the application of existing law; and

(B) a list of all appropriations contained in the bill for expenditures not currently authorized by law for the period concerned (except classified intelligence or national security programs, projects, or activities) along with a statement of the last year for which such expenditures were authorized, the level of expenditures authorized for that year, the actual level of expenditures for that year, and the level of appropriations in the bill for such expenditures.

(2) Whenever the Committee on Appropriations reports a bill or joint resolution including matter specified in clause 1(b)(2) or (3) of rule X, it shall include—

(A) in the bill or joint resolution, separate headings for "Rescissions" and "Transfers of Unexpended Balances"; and

(B) in the report of the committee, a separate section listing such rescissions and transfers."

OVERSIGHT PLAN

The Committee on Appropriations is strongly committed to stringent and comprehensive oversight of Federal discretionary spending to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being invested wisely and prudently on behalf of the American people. Oversight should not be a partisan exercise, but a serious evaluation and accounting of how taxpayer dollars are being utilized by Government agencies and programs.

Because of the historic nature of the Nation's financial crisis, Congress must go further in exercising oversight than ever before. This Congress must get into the weeds, root out waste, abuse and duplicative spending in Federal programs, and reject "more money" solutions to our budgetary challenges.

As part of this focus, the Appropriations Committee must maintain continual pressure on Federal agency officials and department heads in order to promote accountability and responsibility by the agencies regarding the investment of American tax dollars. In addition, the Committee will utilize, where appropriate, information and testimony from non-Government entities to further scrutinize Federal spending and the effectiveness and necessity of Government programs.

To accomplish theses goal for in the 113th Congress, the Committee on Appropriations intends to engage in the following oversight actions:

(1) *Subcommittee Hearings.* The Appropriations Committee holds itself to the highest standards for analyses of the President's budget and supplemental funding requests. During the 112th Congress, the Appropriations Committee held 246 hearings, heard testimony from 1,858 witnesses and published 164 volumes of hearings totaling 134,620 pages.

These subcommittee hearings will include testimony from Federal agency officials with responsibility over the spending of taxpayer dollars, as well as non-Government individuals and entities with relevant budgetary information and analysis.

(2) *Investigations.* In addition to open oversight hearings, the Committee will also engage in in-depth, comprehensive studies and investigations into agency activities when it is deemed necessary. Specifically, these investigations may include examination of potential duplication in Government programs, budget practices in Federal agencies, as well as others. Many of these investigations will be conducted by the Committee's Surveys and Investigations staff, who are highly qualified and experienced in the detailed examination of Federal budgets. In addition, the Committee will continue to utilize the investigative expertise of the Government Accountability Office and the Inspectors General of the various Federal agencies. In the 112th Congress, the Committee initiated 78 studies for the Surveys and Investigations staff and received 232 investigative reports from the Government Accountability Office.

(3) *Appropriations Bills.* The "Power of the Purse" is the Committee's primary responsibility, as outlined in Article I, Section 9, and Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution which states that "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law." The manner in which the Committee chooses to provide or withhold Federal funding will be undertaken with the utmost level of care and concern over the prudent and responsible use of taxpayer funds, based on its in-depth review of each agencies programs and budget through its informed analyses. The Committee will strictly adhere to its responsibilities under the Congressional Budget Act by ensuring its strict conformance with the total discretionary spending levels established in the Budget Resolution. The Committee will fulfill its responsibility to allocate those funds among the subcommittees based on the prioritization of limited spending based on its analyses and reviews.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 16, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL E. ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I am forwarding to you an electronic and paper copy of the Committee on Armed Services' Oversight Plan for the 113th Congress, as adopted by the committee on Tuesday, January 15, 2012.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and I look forward to working with you in the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

This oversight plan is filed pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives that requires that, not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, each standing committee of the House shall adopt its oversight plan for that Congress.

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INTRODUCTION

The oversight responsibilities of the Committee on Armed Services are conducted throughout the calendar year. They are instrumental in the committee's consideration of the annual defense authorization bill, which covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense as well as the national security functions of the Department of Energy and other related areas. The annual national defense budget involves millions of military and civilian personnel, thousands of facilities, and hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located throughout the world. The wars in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as well as contingency operations related to the global war on terrorism, will continue to expand the range of topics requiring committee oversight including strategic, operational, and budgetary issues of great scope and complexity.

The committee has jurisdiction over laws, programs, and agencies under permanent authority in numerous titles of the United States Code, including titles 10 (Armed Forces), 32 (National Guard), 37 (Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services), 41 (Public Contracts), 42 (Atomic Energy), 46 (Shipping), and 50 (War and National Defense).

The jurisdiction of the committee, pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives is as follows:

1. Ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; Army, Navy, and Air Force reservations and establishments.
2. Common defense generally.
3. Conservation, development, and use of naval petroleum and oil shale reserves.
4. The Department of Defense generally, including the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force generally.
5. Interoceanic canals generally, including measures relating to the maintenance, operation, and administration of interoceanic canals.
6. Merchant Marine Academy, and State Merchant Marine Academies.

7. Military applications of nuclear energy.
8. Tactical intelligence and intelligence related activities of the Department of Defense.
9. National security aspects of merchant marine, including financial assistance for the construction and operation of vessels, the maintenance of the U.S. shipbuilding and ship repair industrial base, cabotage, cargo preference, and merchant marine officers and seamen as these matters relate to national security.
10. Pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the armed services.
11. Scientific research and development in support of the armed services.
12. Selective service.
13. Size and composition of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.
14. Soldiers' and sailors' homes.
15. Strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense.
16. Cemeteries administered by the Department of Defense.

In addition to its legislative jurisdiction and general oversight function, the committee has special oversight functions with respect to international arms control and disarmament and the education of military dependents in schools pursuant to clause 3(b) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

OVERSIGHT AGENDA

The committee will continue its oversight and assessment of threats to U.S. national security as it considers the fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015 defense budget requests. This effort will involve appropriate oversight hearings with the Secretary of Defense; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the individual service secretaries and chiefs of staff; combatant commanders; other officials of the Department of Defense and the military departments; officials from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency, and other defense-related intelligence agencies; and the Secretary of Energy, the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, and other officials of the Department of Energy. In addition, the committee will invite the views and perspectives of outside experts in academia, industry, associations and advocacy organizations, and those in private life with expertise on these matters. Finally, the committee will continue its aggressive outreach program to seek the views and perspectives of service members and their families to include Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve members across the United States and at deployed locations overseas.

The committee carries out its oversight of the Department of Defense and its subordinate departments and agencies as well as portions of the Department of Energy through activities involving the full committee and its standing subcommittees. Each subcommittee conducts oversight of the programs within its jurisdiction as specified in the committee's rules, with the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations pursuing coordinated and constructive oversight that will identify best practices, areas of potential savings, as well

as those areas in need of correction and reform within the Department of Defense.

The oversight agenda below, unless otherwise noted, is designed to support the consideration by the committee and, ultimately, the House of Representatives of the annual defense authorization bill, as well as the committee's broader oversight responsibilities. The issues identified are expected to be ongoing areas of oversight activity throughout the 113th Congress. In addition, the committee will continue to pay particular attention to the mandates placed on executive departments and agencies by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–62). The committee will examine closely the progress of the Department of Defense, the military departments, and the Department of Energy in implementing Public Law 103–62 to include the use of performance-based budgeting techniques and five-year strategic planning documents, for programs within its jurisdiction. In this context, pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee will continue to emphasize the examination of relevant rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions affecting the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy for their effects on efficiency and good management practices.

Given the unique nature of national security issues and related oversight of the Armed Forces, the committee believes that a qualifier is once again necessary with regard to the ability to plan comprehensively and predict all oversight activities. Much of the committee's most demanding oversight will be, by definition, event-driven and not subject to prior planning. Such events significantly complicate the ability to prescribe with great accuracy or specificity the committee's entire oversight agenda. For instance, the oversight of defense activities by the committee has historically involved in-depth assessments of military operations and other major events that are generally difficult to predict in advance, such as of the war in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and responses to catastrophic events. In the 112th Congress, a significant portion of the committee's oversight agenda was dedicated to assessing the effects of defense sequestration, as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011, which could not have been foreseen at the time the oversight plan for the 112th Congress was adopted. These reviews can dominate committee and staff resources, sometimes at the expense of other planned activities. The committee fully expects that this type of event-driven oversight will continue to be required.

The committee has a long tradition of translating oversight activities into prescriptive legislative action as reflected in past comprehensive efforts such as: providing for concurrent receipt of retirement and disability benefits for veterans with qualifying combat-related disabilities; the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–433); the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act of 1991 (Public Law 101–510); the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–355); the establishment of the National Nuclear Security Administration and related reform of the management of the national security programs of the Department of Energy; the Military Commissions Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–366); the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007 included in the National Defense Authoriza-

tion Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181); the Weapon System Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–23); the Implementing Management for Performance and Related Reforms to Obtain Value in Every Acquisition Act of 2010 (IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010), as included in the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111–383); the Small Business Innovative Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Reauthorization Act of 2011, as included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012; and the application of additional sanctions against the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as included in both the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. The committee will continue to oversee these and other prior legislative provisions in the 113th Congress. In general, the committee will continue to maintain a strong linkage between formal oversight efforts and legislative initiatives.

As previously noted, the committee has dedicated significant oversight to the examination of the implications of the Budget Control Act of 2011 for national defense. The committee will continue to oversee the Department of Defense's implementation of these budget cuts to ensure the military is responsibly applying cuts and continuing to invest in high priority national security requirements. Likewise, the committee will assess the effects of declining defense resources on the health of the force and risk associated with executing the national military strategy. H.R. 8, the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, delayed the implementation of sequestration by two months, changing the effective date to March 1, 2013. The committee agrees with the statement of the acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget who testified before the committee in 2012 that, "Sequestration, by design, is bad policy . . ." The committee continues to oppose the sequester of national defense funding, but will conduct additional oversight in the 113th Congress to ensure the effects on the military and the defense industrial base are known, that appropriate planning is occurring to ensure the negative effects of sequestration are not exacerbated, and should sequestration go into effect, that the damage to U.S. national security is mitigated to the greatest extent possible.

In addition to the above, the following specific areas and subjects are identified for special attention during the 113th Congress.

POLICY ISSUES

NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY, NATIONAL MILITARY STRATEGY, AND RELATED DEFENSE POLICY ISSUES

The committee is committed to ensuring that the U.S. military is properly postured to meet the complex security demands of the 21st century. This will involve closely reviewing how the Department of Defense postures itself to meet the demands of the war in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the renewed focus on the Asia-Pacific, and dispersed special operations in support of the global war on terrorism, while also ensuring that the Department invests in modernization and remains capable of addressing new conven-

tional and unconventional challenges. Therefore, the committee will provide oversight to ensure that all Department activities, capabilities and functions, including doctrine, organization, training, education, exercises, materiel, leadership, personnel, facilities, and planning, appropriately reflect the necessity to meet the full range of security requirements.

Furthermore, when considering the overall posture of the Department, the committee will consider the recommendations delineated in the forthcoming 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) and the associated National Defense Panel. In addition, the committee will consider these findings and recommendations in the context of the new defense strategic guidance that was released in January, 2012, and the findings of prior QDRs and independent panels.

Through its constitutional responsibility arising from article I, section 8, to raise and support armies and to provide and maintain a Navy, the committee has a responsibility to ensure that the military can meet its future missions, as well as today's operational requirements. The committee's examination of strategic risk, in simple terms, will look to ensure that these joint forces retain the ability, regardless of present operational pressures and budgetary constraints, to deter any potential foe, respond to any contingency that threatens U.S. interests, and defeat any adversary who might threaten America's interests, in the worst case. In this regard, the committee will closely examine the Department of Defense's range of assumptions about future threats made in strategy documents to assess the adequacy of forces, the resources available, and the likely level of strategic risk. The committee will continue to monitor strategic risk and take action to mitigate it when necessary.

THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

The war in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has evolved since the nascent stages of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001, and it continues to embody vital U.S. national interests—to include ensuring that Afghanistan is not a sanctuary for terrorist groups or a launching pad for terrorist attacks against the United States and its allies.

The surge in U.S. military troops and resources has improved security in Afghanistan; yet, these security gains are fragile and reversible. Given the recovery of approximately 33,000 U.S. surge forces in September 2012, coupled with the continuing transition of lead responsibility to Afghan security forces, the next two years will be critical to ensuring U.S. security for years to come. U.S. forces in Afghanistan must continue to receive the resources necessary to conduct the missions that will be set forth by President Obama in 2013. Consequently, the committee will continue to conduct robust oversight activities during the 113th Congress on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's International Security Assistance Force (NATO–ISAF) and Operation Enduring Freedom missions, more broadly. In addition, the committee will maintain a focus on the decisions and activities that will shape the operational environment in 2014 and the military presence beyond December 31, 2014.

The committee will continue to examine the progress made in the execution of NATO–ISAF's counterinsurgency strategy and the se-

curity transition in Afghanistan. The committee will track the performance metrics for measuring operational and strategic success and will provide focused oversight on the mission set established by the President as well as the associated force levels authorized by the President. The safety and security of U.S. and allied forces will remain paramount in the committee's oversight approach—as discussed in greater detail below.

The committee also will continue to monitor efforts to deny sanctuary in the border area between Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as well as provide oversight on other critical efforts in Afghanistan such as the continued development and sustainment of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) as they assume full responsibility for security. The committee also will continue oversight of reconstruction activities to ensure that appropriate accountability measures are taken.

Finally, the committee will monitor and conduct oversight of the redeployment equipment and handover of facilities that will occur throughout 2013, 2014, and beyond—including the redeployment of the equipment, rolling stock, and other combat vehicles out of Afghanistan.

Force Protection

The committee will continue to emphasize force protection as a high priority issue for special oversight—with a particular focus on areas having a direct impact on the safety of military personnel engaged in operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The committee will seek to expedite the promulgation of policies and the fielding of technology and equipment that prevents and/or reduces combat casualties.

In Afghanistan, as well as other overseas contingency operations, focus areas will continue to include but are not limited to: the policies for management and acquisition of counter improvised explosive device (CIED) equipment throughout the force to include attacking the network, defeating the device, and training the force; persistent surveillance, particularly prevention of IED emplacement; actionable tactical intelligence processing, exploitation, and dissemination capabilities in support of ground operations; capabilities to counter indirect fire; adequate, effective, and properly resourced quantities of body and vehicle armor to include survivability improvements to the combat and tactical vehicle fleets; and improving current biometric systems.

Finally, the committee will continue to provide robust oversight and monitoring of the "insider attacks" perpetrated by Afghan security forces and private security contractors against U.S. and coalition personnel in Afghanistan. The committee will focus its oversight on the full range of the actions that the Department took before, during, and after an "insider attack." Moreover, the committee will provide oversight on the steps the Department is taking to continue to understand, and gain precise clarity into, the motive of the attacks; the tactics, techniques, and procedures leveraged by the attacker; the strategic effects of the attacks to the mission in Afghanistan; and the procedures being taken to mitigate for and prevent, to the maximum extent possible, future "insider attacks." Lastly, the committee will pay close attention to the certification

requirements for the Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF) set forth in the Afghan Security Forces Fund authority in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2013 in order to ensure that APPF personnel conducting static force protection for U.S. military personnel on bases in Afghanistan meet key professional and recruiting standards, such that potential "insider attacks" perpetrated by the APPF are sufficiently mitigated.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

Since the 9/11 attacks, the United States has dealt Al Qaeda repeated and significant blows during the Global War on Terrorism. Despite many notable successes, Al Qaeda remains potent in Afghanistan and Pakistan and the organization's affiliates have expanded in countries like Somalia, Yemen, and Mali. The committee will continue to conduct extensive oversight, often in classified form, over terrorism issues, with particular attention given to special operations capabilities, the changing nature of Al Qaeda's organization and operations, and efforts to build partner nation counterterrorism capability. As the U.S. strengthens and builds partnership capacity with key allies around the globe, the committee will remain focused on the Department of Defense's efforts in aggressively fighting the Global War on Terror and countering radicalism in places of concern such as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Yemen, and the Horn of Africa. Ensuring security and stability in volatile regions that cannot adequately govern themselves or secure their own territory will remain a top priority for the committee.

The Greater Middle East

The greater Middle East remains an area of particular focus for the committee in the 113th Congress. This geographic area includes countries in which the United States has invested significant military resources. Moreover, some countries in the greater Middle East embody historic significance for global jihad and continue to serve as operational platforms for global jihadist groups such as Al Qaeda and its affiliated and associated groups. As a result, the committee will continue to apply its resources towards oversight and evaluation of U.S. defense policies, readiness, and military programs in this part of the globe.

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The committee will continue its oversight of the broad range of security issues involving the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and will carefully review the use of Coalition Support Funds (CSF), which are provided to reimburse Pakistan for its support to U.S. military operations and security assistance. Also, the committee will monitor any transfers of funds into, or out of, the Pakistan Counterinsurgency Fund (PCF). The committee will monitor the security and stability of Pakistan, including the security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons; Pakistan's on-going and future nuclear weapon projects; and its partnerships and operational capacity to combat key terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda, the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, and other terrorist organizations. Moreover, the committee will evaluate the terrorist activity emanating from the bor-

der area between Pakistan and Afghanistan and will provide oversight of the Department of Defense's efforts to combat that threat.

Republic of Iraq

The committee will conduct oversight of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq (OSC–I). The committee will monitor and evaluate the execution of the authority to train Iraqi security forces in an institutional, non-operational environment.

The security situation in Iraq is part of a complex and evolving political landscape in the region. The committee will monitor political developments in Iraq to gauge the state of the security situation, including the increasingly transnational capacity of Al Qaeda in Iraq, and to understand the nature of the partnership with the Government of Iraq and the state of security in the region.

The committee also will focus attention on Foreign Military Sales (FMS)—as the FMS system remains an important effort to further strengthen and sustain the security forces in Iraq. While primary oversight jurisdiction lies with the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Foreign Military Sales are complementary to the training provided by U.S. military trainers in Iraq under the OSC–I authority.

Islamic Republic of Iran

The committee will continue to monitor and provide inquiry into the development of nuclear weapons, and/or nuclear weapon capability, by the Government of Iran. During the 113th Congress, the committee will strive to gain both a greater conceptual clarity as well as a more detailed understanding of the threat posed by a nuclear, or nuclear-capable, Iran and the potential effects for the United States, its interests, and its allies in the region through public hearings, Department briefings, reports (such as the Iran Military Power Report), and oversight trips to the region.

The committee will continue to monitor the sanctions already in place, as well as the sanctions established in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. Additionally, the committee will conduct oversight of the full range of potential military activities, prepositioning of military assets, and operations to counter threats posed by Iran.

Finally, the committee will continue to monitor the strategic orientation, operational capacity, and goals of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). Furthermore, the committee also will focus its attention towards the Iranian Quds Force, a special mission wing of the IRGC. In particular, the committee will work to understand the activities of the Quds Force as well as their actions and activities in post-strike scenarios on Iran's nuclear sites.

Syrian Arab Republic

The committee will continue its inquiry into the evolving security and humanitarian situation inside Syria, as well as effects on its neighbors, including Turkey, Iran, Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon. Additionally, the committee will monitor the diplomatic negotiations with President Assad, as well as the support of the Russian Federation to the Syrian regime. Furthermore, the committee will continue to focus on the influx of the jihadists in Syria, including the capacity and relative strength of the terrorist group, Jabhat al-

Nusra, and the interplay of the jihadists within the Sunni population and the opposition groups, more broadly. Finally, the committee will continually examine the security of the chemical and biological stockpiles and associated weapon delivery mechanisms, and it will monitor the deployment and prepositioning of military personnel and resources to the region to address this issue set.

Republic of Yemen

The security situation in Yemen also will continue to be a significant focus for the committee. The committee will maintain its oversight on the U.S. military support and counterterrorism activities in Yemen. The committee will examine the strategic orientation of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Ansar al-Sharia. Additionally, AQAP's capacity for transnational terrorism will be a critical focus. Finally, the committee will monitor any activities of the Government of Iran in Yemen and whether those activities undermine U.S. activities in Yemen.

The Continent of Africa

The committee will maintain its oversight focus on defense issues and Department of Defense activities in the Continent of Africa. Additionally, the committee remains interested in the Department's coordination within the interagency to address the range of activities that are occurring in Africa and to prevent terrorist activity emanating from the continent.

North Africa

The committee will continue to provide focused inquiry into the attack that occurred on September 11, 2012, in Benghazi, Libya. The committee will focus on the Department's continuing institutional response to the attack, as well as the implementation of the lessons learned from the attack; including, but limited to, interagency coordination, positioning of military assets, threat perception, threat analysis, intelligence cycle, intelligence sharing, operational coordination, and crisis response. Additionally, the committee will further its inquiry into Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), including the evolving nature of the group and its foothold in countries such as Algeria, Mauritania, and Mali. Also, the committee will provide inquiry into the steps the Department is taking to gather intelligence on this group and prevent this group from launching transnational terrorist attacks on the United States, its allies, or its interests.

East Africa

The committee will continue to provide robust oversight of the Department's efforts to counter the terrorist threats that are continuing to manifest in East Africa. In particular, the committee will remain focused on the evolution of Al Shabaab and its affiliated entities in Somalia, and the Horn of Africa (HOA) more broadly, as well as the steps that the Department is taking to counter this group and prevent it from launching transnational terrorist attacks on the United States, its allies, or its interests.

Moreover, the committee will continue to monitor the overlapping ideological, strategic, and operational coordination between HOA

terrorist groups, such as Al Shabaab, and terrorist groups on the Arabian Peninsula such as Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

West Africa

The committee will continue its oversight of the Department's analysis of the terrorist group Boko Haram (BH), located primarily in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The committee will pay particular attention to the continuing ideological, strategic, and operational evolution of BH. The committee also will concentrate its attention on the geographic overlap and operational coordination with other terrorist groups on the Continent of Africa, such as AQIM and Al Shabaab.

Central Africa

Finally, the committee will provide oversight of the Department's activities to support the Uganda Peoples' Defense Force (UPDP) and other national militaries with approximately 100 special operation forces to counter the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and apprehend or remove Joseph Kony, which has been occurring for over one year. In addition, the committee will continue its inquiry into the evolving security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the instability and humanitarian issues that are manifesting due to the activities of various rebel and anti-government militias, including the March 23rd (M23) rebel group.

ASIA

The new defense strategic guidance, released in January 2012, stated that the United States military would rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region in recognition of the economic and security interests of the United States that are tied to the region. The region is home to more than fifty percent of the world's population; three thousand different languages; several of the world's largest militaries; five countries allied with the United States through mutual defense treaties (the Commonwealth of Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, and the Kingdom of Thailand); 2 of the world's 4 largest economies (Japan and the People's Republic of China); and 10 of its 14 smallest economies. Given the size and importance of the region, the committee will monitor the Department of Defense's strategy, force posture, and readiness, to ensure that U.S. forces are properly resourced and postured to protect U.S. national security interests.

Efforts by China to expand regional influence may offer challenges. International tensions in the South China and East China Seas could affect regional and global stability. China's military modernization efforts have focused on investments to enable China to conduct a wide range of missions, including deterring, delaying, and denying international access within the Asia-Pacific region. These possibilities remain concerning to regional allies and partners.

The committee will continue to oversee international efforts to contain the North Korean threat to regional stability. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea tested missile launch capabilities twice in 2012 in defiance of applicable United Nations resolutions.

Despite chronic economic shortages leaving the civilian population malnourished, North Korea continues to devote limited resources to maintaining the world's fourth largest armed force with 1.2 million active-duty personnel, 5 million to 7 million reserves, 1,700 aircraft, 800 naval vessels and more than 13,000 artillery systems. More than 70% of North Korea's ground forces remain stationed within 90 kilometers of the Demilitarized Zone, within striking distance of the greater Seoul metropolitan area and U.S. forces stationed in the Republic of Korea.

The region's evolving security environment requires increased engagement with allies and partners. The committee will monitor key operational control transition initiatives between U.S. Forces Korea and the Republic of Korea, as well as the Yongsan Relocation Plan and the Land Partnership Plan. With respect to Japan, the committee will focus on the continued realignment of U.S. forces that are based in Japan. The committee will also evaluate U.S. military engagement with other regional allies and partners, including the Republic of India, Australia, the Philippines, and several other countries.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

The committee will examine the issues affecting the United States military in Central and South America, as many nations in this region increasingly face the dangers of illicit trafficking, political turmoil, and instability that pose a potential threat to the homeland. The committee will oversee the execution of the military's security assistance programs in the Republic of Colombia, as this country continues to improve its national security and peace talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. The committee remains concerned about the political situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the instability it brings to the region. The committee continues to monitor potential threats from global terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps, who have increasing influence in the region. Additionally, the committee will focus on the growing economies in the region such as the Federative Republic of Brazil, the region's largest and fastest-growing economy, and its influence both in the Western Hemisphere and globally.

The committee recognizes the importance of the United States' relationship with its Central and South American neighbors and the ability as a hemisphere to bring safety and security to the region.

EUROPE

While the stability and security of Europe remain core U.S. national interests, the U.S. military force presence maintained in Europe has declined dramatically since the end of the cold war. The planned withdrawal of two of four Army Brigade Combat Teams will further reduce U.S. military presence. Nevertheless, there are significant advantages that come from European-based U.S. troops, including the opportunity to train regularly with ally and partner forces at U.S. training centers in Europe and the ability to plan and launch operations elsewhere in the region, as was demonstrated recently by Operation Odyssey Dawn and Operation Uni-

fied Protector in Libya and the U.S. military response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2012 in Benghazi. The committee will examine all overseas basing, including that in Europe, to determine what is the most effective overseas force posture for our national security at the lowest possible cost.

European allies are strong partners with the U.S. military, contributing to a range of regional and global missions, including approximately 50% of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) training teams in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. However, the continuing constrained fiscal environment has created pressures on the region's militaries, their defense budgets, and investments in future capabilities. To deal with the financial impact on the region's militaries, the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) agreed to a "Smart Defense" initiative, a series of projects designed to pool and share resources in order to better set priorities and encourage members to specialize. The May 2012 NATO Chicago Summit focused on other issues affecting the future of the alliance, including missile defense and nuclear deterrence, development in the Middle East, and the transition of NATO forces in Afghanistan. The committee will focus on the U.S. military's engagement in NATO's activities.

While the Cold War has been over for more than 20 years, the U.S. military's relationship with the Russian Federation is focused on building and maintaining cooperative military-to-military relations while also reassuring U.S. allies wary of Russia's intentions. Russia remains focused on reforming and modernizing their forces, with specific emphasis on improving the recruitment, training and retention of its troops. However, since December 2007, Russia has ceased implementing its obligations to the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, which included annual notification and data of military forces and basing. The committee will examine U.S. military's engagement with the Russian military. In 2012, Russia announced it wanted changes to the umbrella agreement with the United States. Set to expire in June 2013, the agreement helped the U.S. Government secure and dismantle Soviet-era nuclear weapons and contained key liabilities for U.S. personnel. The committee will continue to monitor Department of Defense and National Nuclear Security Administration efforts to secure Russian nuclear materials.

ADDRESSING EMERGING THREATS

Terrorism, insurgency, and weapons of mass destruction proliferation are some of the emerging threats that challenge global peace and stability. These threats directly impact the National Military Strategy and require the Department of Defense to work effectively and efficiently with other Federal agencies and the security forces of other nations. The committee will conduct oversight of numerous cross-cutting Department activities central to addressing these emerging and unforeseen threats, including counterinsurgency, counterterrorism, security force assistance, and building partnership capacity (BPC), all of which received renewed emphasis in the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.

The committee will focus attention on how the Department addresses these broad threats in its strategic planning processes, how

resources are arrayed to meet these threats, and how existing authorities are consistent with operational requirements. While there are roughly a dozen authorities that fall into the BPC category, the ones the committee considers most significant include train and equip "1206" and the new Global Security Contingency Fund. Since 2006, the committee has been increasingly active in this area, and the last several National Defense Authorization Acts have reflected what Congress considered to be the appropriate balance of providing sufficient authority for the most pressing needs of the Department of Defense while encouraging a more integrated interagency approach to building partnership capacity. Furthermore, the committee will continue to closely monitor and assess the execution of these BPC authorities, both during the initial congressional notification process and those programs in progress.

The full committee, as well as the Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities (given the key role Special Operations Forces play in this area), will continue their oversight of the full range of emerging threats to national security and U.S. military forces, and the capabilities needed to respond.

DETAINEE POLICY, MILITARY COMMISSIONS, AND RELATED MATTERS

The Department of Defense continues to be the custodian of detainees who are being held in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and United States Naval Station (GTMO), Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

With regard to detainee operations in Afghanistan, the committee will primarily focus on: the transfer and release of detainees held in the Bagram detention facility; cases of recidivism; and the continued transition of detainees into Afghan custody. The committee will specifically focus on the disposition of detainees who pose a continuing national security threat to the United States.

With respect to detention operations at United States Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the committee will continue to monitor transfer and release policies and practices, as well as the use of the Military Commissions Act (Public Law 109–366; Public Law 111–84) that established the current legal framework governing the operation of military tribunals to try detainees for war crimes and codified some of the procedural rights of GTMO detainees.

The committee will also focus on issues relating to detention policy for future captures, detainee interrogations, prioritization of intelligence collection, procedures for detainee reviews, conditions of confinement, and the Department's role in the High Value Interrogation Group. The committee will also take other necessary actions and conduct related oversight.

INTELLIGENCE

In the 113th Congress, the committee will continue to monitor the reorganization of the intelligence community through implementation of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–458) and the creation of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence position as authorized by the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314). The committee will also place particular attention on: resource allocation for intelligence-related programs both for effectiveness and affordability; defense intelligence strate-

gies and policies in consideration of current and anticipated future threats; organization and management of the elements of the Department of Defense that are part of the intelligence community; and the consideration and prioritization of defense intelligence requirements across the intelligence community. Additionally, the committee will monitor the Department's security practices, audit capabilities, and information-sharing policies following recent extensive unauthorized disclosures of classified information. All of the committee's efforts will be focused on ensuring the highest possible quality of intelligence support to the warfighter. Finally, the committee will continue to coordinate with the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on intelligence and counterintelligence matters of the Department of Defense, and intelligence and counterintelligence activities of the Department of Energy in the course of its annual oversight of the intelligence community and the authorization of appropriations for intelligence activities shared by the two committees.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES

The debate that began during the 112th Congress about the most appropriate force structure mix of active and reserve components, about the proper roles and missions of the reserve components—be they an operational or strategic reserve—and about the affordability of the required force to meet national security requirements will intensify in the 113th Congress. Competition among the active and reserve components for diminishing resources will serve as a catalyst for that debate. As evidenced by the debate about the Air Force's active and reserve component force structure recommendations submitted with the Fiscal Year 2013 President's budget and subsequent Congressional action, reaching a consensus will be most challenging.

During the 112th Congress, the National Defense Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239) included provisions (title III, subtitle G) establishing a National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force to undertake a comprehensive study of the structure of the Air Force to determine whether, and how, the structure should be modified to best fulfill current and anticipated mission requirements for the Air Force in a manner consistent with available resources. The Commission will evaluate a structure that: meets current and anticipated requirements of the combatant commands; achieves an appropriate balance between the Regular and Reserve Components of the Air Force, taking advantage of the unique strengths and capabilities of each; ensures that the Regular and Reserve Components of the Air Force have the capacity needed to support current and anticipated homeland defense and disaster assistance missions in the United States; provides for sufficient numbers of regular members of the Air Force to provide a base of trained personnel from which the personnel of the Reserve Components of the Air Force could be recruited; maintains a peacetime rotation force to support operational tempo goals of 1:2 for regular members of the Air Forces and 1:5 for members of the Reserve Components of the Air Force; and, maximizes and appropriately balances affordability, efficiency, effectiveness, capability, and readiness. The Commission will submit a report to the congressional de-

fense committees not later than February 1, 2014, at which time the committee will evaluate any legislative or administrative recommendations made by the Commission as a result of the study.

In the 113th Congress, the committee, building on the outcomes of the Commission report, will continue its review of the various recommendations and proposals and monitor proposed changes to ensure the recommendations will meet the National Military Strategy requirements, as well as homeland security and disaster requirements. Furthermore, the committee will continue to monitor and evaluate the obligation and execution rates of funds provided as part of a separate procurement account, entitled the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) that would be used to address equipment shortfalls for the National Guard and Reserve Components. The committee will also focus oversight efforts on current equipment investment strategies for the National Guard and Reserve Components with particular emphasis on affordability and modernization of critical dual-use equipment platforms that are essential to the National Guard's Title 32 mission, defense support to civil authorities.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY

OVERVIEW

The committee is responsible not only for ensuring that the United States military has the capabilities required to preserve our national security, but also to ensure that the Department of Defense is operated efficiently and with fiscal discipline in order to maximize the return on the taxpayers' investments. To that end, the committee will conduct oversight of the organization and management of the Department of Defense, its business operations, and the means by which the Department acquires goods and services. Acquisition programs that no longer represent the best value for the taxpayer, due to a changing security environment, mismanagement, or the time required to deliver a useful capability to the warfighter, will be re-evaluated by the committee as part of the annual defense authorization process.

Moreover, the committee will continue to examine the application of $451 billion in cuts to the Fiscal Year 2012 Future Years Defense Plan over 10 years, as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011 and H.R. 8, the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. These cuts will reduce military end strength, force structure, and significantly alter planned procurements. Pursuant to clause 2(d)(1)(F) rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, as the committee examines the impact of these funding reductions, the committee will cut or eliminate programs, including mandatory spending programs, that are deemed inefficient, duplicative, outdated, or more appropriately administered by State or local governments.

Additional plans for oversight in this area during the 113th Congress follow below.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The committee will review the organization and management of the Department of Defense to ensure that it is properly postured to meet the complex and evolving security threats of the 21st cen-

tury. The committee anticipates that the organization of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the military departments will be modified, perhaps substantially so, as the Administration implements funding cuts imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–240). The committee will carefully review any proposed organizational changes and work to ensure that the missions of the Department are appropriately aligned with organizations that have the core competency to perform them, as well as ensure that Department's enterprise, including the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the military departments, the combatant commands, and the defense agencies operate efficiently, cutting out organizational waste and redundancy. To that end, the committee will seek to ensure that any reductions in personnel are made in a balanced manner that considers total workforce management. Pursuant to clause (2)(p) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee will also carefully review issues raised by the Comptroller General of the United States indicating that programs or operations that the committee may authorize are at high risk for waste, fraud, and mismanagement, known as the "high-risk list" or the "high-risk series".

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The committee will continue to oversee military effectiveness in this era of declining budgets. The Department of Defense has already identified a decrease of $487.0 billion over a 10 year period based on fiscal constraints. Additional reductions to defense resources, to include mechanisms such as sequestration, could affect the quality of our military force as the Department looks to successfully perform its role in the National Security Strategy.

The Comptroller General of the United States has consistently identified the Department of Defense's financial management as a high-risk area since 1995. The Department's inability to track and account for billions of dollars in funding and tangible assets continues to undermine its financial management systems. It also creates a lack of transparency that significantly limits congressional oversight.

Measures to reform defense acquisition or to find efficiencies within the Department are undermined by the Department's inability to produce auditable financial statements. Without these objective tools, neither the Department nor Congress can fully verify that greater value is being created.

The committee will continue to review the Department's efforts to implement the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) plan and to monitor closely the interdependencies between FIAR and the hundreds of millions of dollars per year being spent on business systems modernization programs that the Department has proposed to address its financial management problems.

The committee looks forward to receiving notification that the Statement of Budgetary Resources will be audit ready during the 113th Congress, as the current projected date for that certification is September 30, 2014.

ACQUISITION ISSUES

The Acquisition System and Acquisition Policy

The committee will continue to provide oversight of the defense acquisition system and address continuing concerns about cost growth in major defense acquisition programs and the responsiveness of the system to compelling military needs. In recent years, the committee has been especially active in the area of acquisition reform including: reforming the process for reviewing and certifying requirements for major defense acquisition programs; reforming contingency contracting; improving the acquisition workforce; protecting strategic materials; and establishing greater standards and transparency for services contracting.

Nevertheless, the committee is still aware of and concerned about significant shortcomings in the acquisition system. The committee will continue to monitor the implementation of recently enacted acquisition reforms, to include implementation of legislation based on the findings and recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Contracting. The committee will also review the application of regulatory frameworks, such as cost accounting standards, to contracts entered into and performed overseas. As part of its oversight, the committee will continue to examine in-depth the military requirements process that is the foundation of the acquisition system. Weapon system programs begin with the validation of a military requirement. The process by which this occurs, while lengthy and filled with multi-service consultation, continues to produce outcomes which do not reflect the jointness that the military has achieved at the operating level. The committee will also continue to examine the process for developing the cost estimates for weapon systems. Unrealistic cost estimates are a significant cause of cost growth in DOD acquisitions. The absence of more realistic cost estimates makes it difficult to develop a well-conceived acquisition plan that weighs competing strategic and budget priorities.

Service contracting represents an increasingly important and large proportion of the acquisition expenditures of the Department of Defense. The committee will continue to work to reform appropriately the acquisition process to reflect this reality by: reviewing the management structure for these contracts; increasing the visibility and transparency of these contracts by reviewing service contract inventories; and monitoring efforts to prevent personal and organizational conflicts of interest. The committee will also monitor the Department's phasing out of the use of contractors to perform inherently governmental functions, such as serving as the lead system integrator on major defense acquisition programs.

The committee has done a significant amount of work to improve the ability to contract in a contingency environment. The committee will seek to ensure that requirements development and planning for operational contract support is sufficient to enable rapid deployment and sustained response when and where it is needed. Over the past several years, the committee has maintained active oversight on the Department's urgent operational needs and rapid acquisition processes, most recently, in section 902 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law

112–239), that required the Secretary of Defense to designate a senior official to be the focal point within the Department to lead all efforts related to urgent operational needs and rapid acquisition. In addition to monitoring this effort, the committee will remain committed to diligent oversight and investigation into the many challenges facing the Department in the consolidation and management of the organizations involved in rapid acquisition and urgent operational needs and will continue to ensure the Department maintains and uses all necessary authorities to rapidly meet urgent warfighter requirements.

The committee recognizes that a fundamental component in addressing most of the problems in the acquisition process is improving the composition and quality of the acquisition workforce. The committee will provide oversight to efforts to enhance career paths for military personnel working in acquisition, to the Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund, and to other efforts by the Department to expand and improve the acquisition workforce. In addition, the committee will continue to ensure the protection of the Government's interest in technical data.

Defense Industrial Base and Technology Transfers

The committee will continue to closely examine the health, security and innovative capacity of the defense industrial base, especially in light of changes to the defense strategy, the needs for recapitalization and modernization after 10 years of war, and looming budget pressures. The industrial base for complex major weapons systems has shrunk dramatically in the last decade, limiting the ability of the Department of Defense to control costs and encourage innovation through the use of competition. Industry has also struggled in many cases to make the long-term investments that are vital to the health of the defense industrial base, notably so in the shipbuilding industry. The committee will examine the policies and funding tools available to the Department to ensure the health of the defense industrial base.

The committee will also monitor implementation of recent changes to the U.S. export control regime in order to determine its effectiveness in preventing the transfer of sensitive military-related technologies to potential adversaries. The consolidation of the defense industry and its increasingly global nature will increasingly challenge the capabilities of current systems for industrial security. The committee will monitor the Department's plans and statutory authorities for industrial security to ensure their adequacy. In addition to overseeing the effectiveness of the Defense Security Service to carry out this mission, the committee will review traditional mechanisms for industrial security, such as the security clearance process and the National Industrial Security Program, as well other areas where adversaries could exploit vulnerabilities or loop holes in the acquisition process to undermine the U.S. defense industrial base.

Information Technology and Business Systems

Information technology (IT) systems are critical enablers for the Department of Defense. As the IT budget represents nearly $33 billion of the Department of Defense's total budget, it also represents

a major investment area requiring the same rigorous planning and oversight as any other complex major weapon system. The Department recognized this area as a source of greater efficiencies and has managed to reduce spending in IT by several billion dollars across the Future Years Defense Program. The committee will continue to review the Department's IT investment planning and acquisitions to reduce unwarranted duplication and eliminate programs of little value to the warfighter. The committee will pay particular attention to the various IT business systems of the Department where egregious programmatic failures such as the Air Force's Expeditionary Combat Support System have occurred, but which are also critical components in the Department's strategy to achieve auditability.

READINESS

RESET

The committee will continue to monitor the services' reset strategies to repair, recapitalize, and replace equipment used in ongoing operations and will also closely monitor progress toward complete reconstitution of prepositioned stocks. The committee believes that full reset remains at risk in a constrained budget environment. Subsequently, the committee will provide rigorous oversight of ongoing property accountability and retrograde efforts aimed at returning equipment with remaining military value to home station. Further, the committee will continue to monitor the disposition of non-standard equipment returning from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to ensure that important items are incorporated into units' tables of equipment, are budgeted for and sustained properly, and that items no longer of military utility are disposed of in the most cost-effective manner possible.

FORCE READINESS

The committee will hold force readiness as one of its highest priorities and will continue rigorous oversight in this area, focusing not only on the readiness of deployed personnel supporting ongoing operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, but on the ability of the services to conduct full-spectrum combat missions should the need arise. Shortfalls in full-spectrum readiness have improved as operational tempo has slowed with the end of combat operations in the Republic of Iraq, equipment and personnel shortfalls have been addressed, and dwell time has increased, allowing for a return to full-spectrum training. However, challenges in key areas still exist, and the committee will be closely monitoring how planned end strength reductions acutely impact these areas. Further, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense's efforts to prepare for a wider range of possible contingencies and its efforts to restore readiness in key support areas such as logistics, prepositioned stocks, and contracted service support.

LIFE-CYCLE SUSTAINMENT

Without appropriate and timely input from the logistics community, decisions made during system design can create unnecessary sustainment problems that drive millions of dollars in depot-level

maintenance once the system is fielded. The committee will focus on reducing the total-ownership costs of weapons systems and equipment by ensuring the Department of Defense is developing, procuring and modernizing weapons systems and equipment with consideration of life-cycle support and sustainment requirements and cost. In its oversight of the Department's life-cycle sustainment efforts, the committee will monitor the implementation of section 2337 of title 10, United States Code, which requires that each major weapons system be supported by a product support manager and section 832 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81) which requires additional visibility of the operation and support of major weapon systems. Furthermore, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department's corrosion control efforts and will monitor resourcing of corrosion prediction and prevention efforts with a focus on increasing the service life of weapons systems while reducing long-term sustainment costs.

DEPOT AND ARSENAL CAPABILITY

A critical piece of equipment sustainment is the capability provided by the nation's organic arsenals and depots, including air logistics centers and shipyards. The committee is concerned about the health of the organic industrial base in a declining workload environment with the end of combat operations in the Republic of Iraq and as combat operations continue to decrease in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. While the committee notes that some military departments have completed an organic industrial base sustainment plan, it is concerned that that the Department of Defense continues to lack a comprehensive strategy to ensure U.S. military depots and arsenals are viably positioned and have the workforce, equipment, and facilities for efficient operations to meet the nation's current requirements, as well as those in the future. The committee will continue oversight of depot and arsenal operations and management, focusing on capital investment in facilities and equipment, the implementation methodology and use of sustainment concepts such as performance-based logistics, the role of public-private partnerships, the use of working capital funds for timely product improvement, and the services' logistics enterprise resource planning systems. Furthermore, the committee will examine how recent efficiency initiatives and workforce reductions impact depot and arsenal capability as well as programs and initiatives designed to assure availability of critical organic manufacturing capabilities.

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

The Department of Defense has long relied on the Federal civilian workforce to support its missions around the world, often requiring civilians to serve in active combat zones. It is clear that the Department's civilian workforce plays a critical role in the readiness of United States military forces. In its oversight of the 113th Congress, the committee will assess continuing efforts to transition from the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) and ensure that the Department implements a fair and transparent performance management system. The committee will also continue to

closely monitor the implementation of each military department's efficiencies initiatives and related impacts on the civilian workforce, including the ability of the Department to carry out its mission, particularly in light of pending personnel cuts and budget reductions.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

An effective energy strategy for the Department of Defense will increase the operational effectiveness of the military and will enhance our national and energy security. Therefore, the committee will review the energy strategies promulgated by the Department of Defense and will monitor trends in the Department's energy use on military installations and for military operations.

The committee will also continue its oversight of the Department of Defense and military services' environmental restoration program and will monitor Department of Defense funding and adherence to federal, state, and local requirements for cleanup, compliance, and pollution prevention.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BASING

The Department of Defense is undergoing a significant change in force structure both in the United States and overseas. These changes are being implemented to enhance operational efficiencies and ensure access to future contingency operations. The committee will continue to review all significant domestic and overseas basing proposals to ensure that these proposals rigidly adhere to existing statutory limitations.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMMING

The committee will review the Department's military construction program to manage the overall capacity of the Department's infrastructure and to ensure prudent long-term military construction investments are provided.

REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION, MAINTENANCE, AND DISPOSAL

The real property management process requires extensive oversight to maintain almost $850.0 billion in infrastructure at an annual cost of nearly $45.0 billion. The committee is concerned that infrastructure inefficiencies result in duplicative operations and uncoordinated investment decisions, and will seek to apply best practices across the Department in order to efficiently maintain the services' taxpayer funded infrastructure.

TOTAL FORCE, PERSONNEL, AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES

MANPOWER SUFFICIENT IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY TO MEET GLOBAL COMMITMENTS

Some argue that military personnel have become or are becoming too expensive. The committee rejects that assertion because such a budget-oriented focus misses the fundamental questions that the committee will assess: What does the Nation need in terms of the

quantity of manpower and the quality of that manpower to meet its current and future global military commitments, without undue risk to the Nation? In this context, the Fiscal Year 2013 President's budget request proposed to reduce the end strengths of the Army and Marine Corps by 100,000 over a five-year period, bringing both services down to approximately pre-9/11 levels. The committee remains concerned with such reductions while those services are still engaged in major combat operations in Afghanistan and smaller engagements throughout the world. Reflecting that concern, Congress, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239) limited the personnel reductions the Army and Marine Corps could execute each year between Fiscal years 2014 and 2017, thereby seeking to prevent a hollowing of the force. The committee will continue to provide aggressive oversight of military manpower levels and force structure to ensure they meet the National Military Strategy. This oversight will seek to provide Active, Guard and Reserve forces that have manpower levels sufficient to sustain varying degrees of conflict, while maintaining deployment ratios at or above Department of Defense objectives. Within this focus, the committee will examine closely trends in force structure requirements, end strength, recruiting, retention and compensation.

MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION PROGRAMS AND MILITARY RESALE PROGRAMS

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and military resale programs (commissary and exchange stores) have been criticized as being unnecessary and wasteful and targeted for reductions in appropriated funding. The committee rejects such assertions and believes cost efficient sustainment of MWR and military resale programs (commissaries and exchanges) is required to protect quality of life in military communities and maintain the combat readiness of the force. The committee will provide oversight efforts directed toward that end.

Additionally, the committee believes that MWR and military resale programs must remain competitive with private sector entities to ensure that service members and their families benefit fully from these programs. The committee must monitor current practices and policies to ensure that MWR and military resale programs are employing the full range of strategies available to private sector competitors to inform authorized patrons about the benefits associated with these programs and attract them to participate. This is especially true for commissaries that are restricted from using pricing, product, and advertising strategies that are common in the private sector because of legislative and policy barriers.

MILITARY BENEFITS

During the 113th Congress the Department of Defense budget will remain under considerable stress and military benefits will be targeted for reductions. The committee must remain vigilant and give close scrutiny to proposals from the Department of Defense and other organizations, both governmental and private sector, calling for funding reductions to military compensation and other

benefit programs. For example, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 authorized a Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission to review the full range of compensation and benefit programs that could applied to service members, families, retirees, and survivors, to include programs managed by the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Education. The Commission's deliberations must be closely monitored and its recommendations carefully scrutinized by the committee.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

A continued principal focus of the committee during the 113th Congress will be to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of mental health services provided to members of the Armed Forces and their families. Particular attention will be given, but not limited to, the suicide prevention efforts undertaken by each military service and the development of the comprehensive Department of Defense policy on prevention of suicide among members of the Armed Forces required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, including mental health resources for members of the Reserve Components and implementation of a suicide prevention and resilience program specifically for the Reserves and National Guard.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

The committee will continue to hold the Department of Defense and the military services accountable to address sexual assaults in the military and ensure victims are provided the appropriate care and support. In that regard, the committee will continue rigorous oversight in this area, focusing not only on sexual assault prevention and response, but on the capability of the military justice system and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to prosecute and bring offenders to justice. In that regard, the committee looks forward to receiving the recommendations of the independent reviews and assessments of Uniform Code of Military Justice and judicial proceedings of sexual assault cases that were mandated in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239). That act also requires the Department of Defense to make significant improvements to their programs and policies to prevent and address sexual assaults involving members of the Armed Forces. Implementation of these program and policy improvements will require close oversight by the committee.

MILITARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The committee is committed to a robust military health system which provides quality health care for service members, retirees, and their families. The cost of providing health care to military beneficiaries will remain a particular focus for the committee during the 113th Congress. The committee will continue to explore innovative strategies to improve the health status of beneficiaries and control cost growth within the military health care system with particular emphasis the role of preventive care. Additionally, to ensure that the military health system is efficient and effective,

the committee will conduct oversight activities on the reforms to the military health system described in the memorandum of the Deputy Secretary of Defense dated March 2012. Particular attention will be focused on health information technology systems and the acquisition process for military health related procurement. Finally, the committee remains committed to a robust medical research and development program focused on military heath issues, such as blast injury mitigation and treatment, combat trauma care, military infectious diseases, and medical biological/chemical defense.

WOUNDED WARRIOR CARE

The committee will continue its efforts to assess the adequacy of the Department of Defense policies and programs for wounded and disabled service members and their families. In this regard, the committee will continue to evaluate the Department Defense's ability to integrate and coordinate the multitude of services and resources available to assist the wounded and disabled, not only from other federal agencies, but also from the private sector. In addition, the committee will monitor the Department's progress toward establishing uniform performance outcome measurements for use by each military service in the Warrior in Transition programs. The congressionally mandated Department of Defense centers of excellence will be reviewed for opportunities to expand capabilities and make improvements. The committee will continue to closely monitor translational research and treatment advances in traumatic brain injury. Particular attention will be focused on the Integrated Disability Evaluation System with a view to ensuring the fairness, effectiveness, timeliness, and efficiency of the program and to simplify the process for service members.

MILITARY FAMILY READINESS

We remain a Nation at war. Consequently the families of the members of the Armed Forces continue to experience the strains associated with repeated deployments. In this regard, the committee will continue to focus on the needs of military families and to identify the programs and policies that can be developed or modified to improve their lives. As end strengths of the Armed Forces are reduced and resources shrink, the committee will closely examine the Department of Defense and military service family support programs to ensure the continued viability of these programs to address the needs of military families. In addition, the committee will focus on the outcomes of the Department of Defense wide review of hiring practices at child development centers.

PRISONER OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION

Over the past several years, the committee has maintained active oversight of the Department of Defense's POW/MIA activities, as the committee of jurisdiction. That oversight led to the requirement that the Department of Defense reform the POW–MIA accounting effort and achieve significantly higher levels of identification by 2015. The committee will remain committed to diligent oversight and investigation into the challenges facing the Depart-

ment in reaching the new accounting objectives, particularly with respect to the recovery, identification, and return of remains that have been found.

MODERNIZATION AND INVESTMENT ISSUES

OVERVIEW

The committee will conduct oversight of the full range of modernization and investment issues facing the Department of Defense. In particular, the committee will seek to ensure the military services have the appropriate authorities, capabilities, and force structure to defend against any potential challenges posed by the advanced anti-access capabilities of countries, such as China and Iran, consistent with the report of the 2010 Department of Defense Quadrennial Defense Review which found that, "Anti-access strategies seek to deny outside countries the ability to project power into a region, thereby allowing aggression or other destabilizing actions to be conducted by the anti-access power. Without dominant capabilities to project power, the integrity of U.S. alliances and security partnerships could be called into question, reducing U.S. security and influence and increasing the possibility of conflict."

ARMY AND MARINE CORPS ARMORED VEHICLE MODERNIZATION

The committee will focus on oversight of the Army and Marine Corps' ambitious and evolving plans to recapitalize their entire fleets of heavy and medium-weight armored vehicles over the next two decades, including the M1 Abrams tank, M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Stryker Vehicles, the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, the Marine Personnel Carrier program, upgrades for Light Armored Vehicles, upgrades to Paladin artillery systems, and replacement of Army M113 series vehicles. In particular, the committee will focus on ensuring that the existing fleet of armored vehicles is properly upgraded and reset after very heavy use in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and that the Army continues to field vehicles that stay ahead of the evolving anti-vehicle threat posed by improvised explosive devices and advances in anti-tank guided missiles.

In addition to ensuring modernization of existing armored vehicles, the committee will also continue aggressive efforts to oversee and shape the evolving Ground Combat Vehicle (GCV) program and the follow-on effort to the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV). In the 113th Congress, these oversight efforts will focus on understanding the basis of these requirements as they pertain to the Analysis of Alternatives, containing program costs, and ensuring appropriate and thorough testing. The committee will also continue to work closely with the Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Budget Office to conduct continuous oversight and evaluation of major development programs as necessary.

ARMY AND MARINE CORPS TACTICAL WHEELED VEHICLES

The committee will focus oversight efforts on the Army and Marine Corps' tactical wheeled vehicle (TWV) modernization strategies for their families of light, medium, and heavy TWVs, the family of mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles, line haul tractor

trailers, and construction equipment. In particular, the committee will focus on ensuring that the existing fleet of TWVs and MRAPs are properly modernized and reset after very heavy operational use in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The committee will closely monitor TWV fleet size and composition and focus on ways to adequately sustain the TWV industrial base given significant decreases in overall requirements and the current fiscal environment. Of particular interest to the committee will be the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) program. The committee will closely monitor the JLTV budget, cost, schedule, and performance outcomes that result from the revised JLTV acquisition strategy. The committee will continue to coordinate with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) regarding the Department's efforts in the long-term management and sustainment of the TWV fleet and its associated industrial base.

ARMY AVIATION PROGRAMS

Legacy rotorcraft platforms, including the CH–47, UH–60, AH–64, and OH–58, will likely continue to be operated at high operational tempos, in very challenging environments. These high operational tempos will require continued upgrade and reset efforts.

In addition to its oversight of aviation requirements for, and performance in, combat operations, the committee will closely monitor the Army's future force program for aviation. In particular, the committee will focus on the Army's restructured acquisition plan resulting from the cancellation of the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, the initiation of modernization programs such as the Joint Future Theater Lift (JFTL) program, and the need for aircraft survivability equipment upgrades to provide warning and protection against evolving surface-to-air missile threats.

With regard to the JFTL program, while the committee has supported research efforts to develop next-generation rotorcraft capabilities, it is concerned that senior leadership of the services and the Office of the Secretary of Defense have yet to establish a set of validated, reconciled, tested, and achievable technology requirements for the JFTL program.

ARMY COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMS

Given the growing importance of battlefield communications networks in global combat operations, the committee will continue to aggressively monitor the Army's plans for its future battlefield network and the supporting research programs now in place. In particular, the committee will focus oversight efforts on the Warfighter Information Network–Tactical (WIN–-T) and the follow-on efforts resulting from the restructured Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) programs. The committee will work with the Army to ensure that the future battlefield capabilities it creates results in a network-enabled, rather than a network-dependent, Army. The committee aims to empower soldiers to accomplish their missions, rather than create an Army that is dependent on its communications network, so much so that it is not able to function without it.

ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING AND INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

The committee will continue to devote substantial attention to the oversight of the research, development, and procurement of organizational clothing and individual equipment and other complementary personnel protection programs. Focus areas will continue to include but are not limited to: advances in weight reduction ("lightening the load") clothing and equipment; development of specific body armor systems for military servicewomen; small arms and small caliber ammunition modernization with particular emphasis on the Army's individual carbine program and handgun program; improved combat helmets; improved uniforms; and management of these associated niche industrial bases. The committee expects the Joint Staff and the military services to coordinate requirements for these individual equipment programs and will encourage joint programs wherever possible.

TACTICAL AIRCRAFT FORCE STRUCTURE

The committee will continue to focus on the size and composition of the tactical aircraft force structure. Continued delays in the initial operational capability of the F–35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft have the potential to result in future tactical aircraft force structure shortfalls if service life extensions for legacy aircraft cannot be accomplished.

With an operational requirement of 1,056 strike fighters, the Department of the Navy projects it can manage a strike fighter shortfall of 65 aircraft in the 2020s. The committee will focus on inventory objectives of F/A–18E/F and EA–18G procurement, the effect of delays in the procurement of the F–35 Joint Strike Fighter, F/A–18 A through D service life limits, and mission capability of the AV–8B aircraft.

The Air Force has stated a strike fighter operational requirement of 1,900 aircraft, and, under current procurement and retirement plans, the Air Force does not project a strike fighter shortfall through 2030. However, delays in deliveries of the F–35A aircraft and in achieving its initial operational capability will affect the Air Force fighter aircraft inventory. In the 113th Congress, the committee will continue its oversight of: aircraft retirement plans; the F–22 and F–35 aircraft programs; and life extension and modernization programs for the F–15, F–16, and A–10 aircraft.

F–35/JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER

During the 113th Congress, the committee will continue oversight of the F–35/Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, particularly issues related to program cost, schedule, and performance.

With the JSF approximately two-thirds of the way through a 14-year development process, the committee believes that there is still risk in completing JSF development within currently projected cost, schedule, and performance parameters. The committee's primary concerns include software development, helmet-mounted sight development, and resolution of issues related to the F–35C's arresting hook system. In the 113th Congress, the committee will continue to receive JSF annual reports and receive testimony and briefings

from both the Department of Defense and an independent review from the Government Accountability Office.

BOMBER FORCE STRUCTURE

The committee understands that the Air Force will continue investments of significant fiscal resources for technology development and engineering, manufacturing and design of a next-generation, long-range strike bomber aircraft during the next few years. While many details regarding the specific requirements and capabilities of the new bomber remain highly classified, the committee will maintain aggressive oversight of the new bomber acquisition strategy to ensure that the Air Force develops an affordable aircraft to timely meet future requirements and recapitalization of the current fleet of B–52, B–1 and B–2 long-range strike bomber aircraft.

During the many years of development, manufacturing and eventual fielding of the new bomber aircraft, it will be imperative that the Air Force continues to maintain, modernize and upgrade the existing fleet of bomber aircraft in order to preserve effective capabilities needed to meet current and future threat target sets. The committee will continue to maintain oversight of current bomber aircraft inventory requirements and modernization plans to ensure that the Air Force maintains a sufficient, credible and lethal fixed-wing aircraft conventional and strategic weapons delivery capability to support all aspects of the National Military Strategy.

AERIAL REFUELING AIRCRAFT

The committee will continue to maintain active oversight of aerial refueling aircraft modernization and recapitalization programs of the Air Force. Currently, the KC–135 and KC–10 are the primary providers of U.S. air-refueling critical capabilities in executing operations in support of the National Military Strategy. Given the limited fiscal resources available to the Air Force for recapitalization of the KC–135 fleet of 395 aircraft, this will result in having to maintain and operate KC–135 aircraft that will be in the fleet for over 70 years. Therefore, timely and efficient recapitalization of the Air Force's KC–135 tanker fleet with new KC–46 aerial refueling aircraft is critical. Additionally, the Air Force plans to perform an avionics modernization program on the KC–10 fleet of tankers to maintain relevant and effective aerial refueling capabilities until a successor program to the KC–46 aircraft is begun to replace the KC–10 aircraft.

The committee understands and is pleased that the KC–46 program is currently meeting cost, schedule, and execution goals and the committee will maintain sufficient oversight of the KC–46 program as it progresses towards meeting its projected initial operating capability date during calendar year 2018.

INTERTHEATER AND INTRATHEATER AIRLIFT

Regarding intertheater airlift aircraft capabilities, the committee continues to remain skeptical of Air Force plans to reduce the intertheater airlift aircraft inventory below 301 total aircraft in support of the defense strategic guidance issued in January 2012. The committee notes that the Air Force made a recommendation in

the fiscal year 2013 budget request to reduce the intertheater airlift inventory to 275 aircraft total, despite not having performed sufficient and rigorous analysis to underpin that recommendation. In Section 141 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, the conferees included a provision that would prevent reducing the inventory of intertheater airlift aircraft below 301 until the Department of Defense conducts, and submits to the congressional defense committees, a comprehensive mobility capabilities and requirements study that assesses the end-to-end, full spectrum mobility requirements for all aspects of the National Military Strategy derived from the National Defense Strategy.

Regarding intratheater airlift aircraft capabilities, the committees believes that a minimum Air Force intratheater airlift inventory of 318 general support and 40 direct support aircraft contained in Section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 should be sufficient to meet both Air Force and Army operational requirements in support of combatant commander operational plans being developed to execute the defense strategic guidance issued in January 2012. The committee, however, remains skeptical that the Air Force has yet to fully embrace and institutionalize effective concepts of operations in support of Army direct support airlift requirements and will maintain close oversight of Air Force implementation of the January 27, 2012, memorandum of understanding agreed upon by the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and by the Chiefs of Staff of the Air Force and the Army.

The committee will continue to maintain close oversight and scrutiny of Air Force intertheater and intratheater airlift aircraft inventories and capabilities during the 113th session to ensure that a robust and effective fleet of airlift aircraft is maintained in the Air Force inventory to meet all mobility airlift requirements of the Department of Defense.

SHIPBUILDING PROGRAMS

The committee will continue close oversight of the Department of the Navy shipbuilding programs. In particular, the committee will conduct hearings, briefings and on-site inspection to assess the requirements for the size and composition of the nation's battle force fleet. With the announcement of a "pivot" to place more emphasis on the Pacific theater of operations, the committee is concerned that instead of a requirement for a larger fleet than the 313 ship target, the target has decreased to approximately 300 ships. The committee will continue to evaluate the projected investment required to maintain maritime dominance and deter peer or near-peer maritime aggression. As part of such an evaluation, the committee will continue to place a significant emphasis on improving affordability in shipbuilding programs through: the requirements process; the use of acquisition best practices; stability within the overall program; increased reliance on common systems; and process and facility improvements at construction yards. The committee will conduct hearings and briefings to assess the need for legislative action to recapitalize infrastructure of public and private shipyards constructing or maintaining Navy vessels and vessels of the National Defense Sealift Force.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE, AND RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAMS

Manned and unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) system programs have come to constitute a significant component of the overall Department of Defense force structure. The capability provided by these assets is critical to sustaining deterrence and warfighting capability of U.S. forces. The committee will focus on the budget, cost, schedule, and performance outcomes of major manned and unmanned aerial systems programs and examine the ISR enterprise for balance in collection and analysis capabilities. Also, close scrutiny of Office of the Secretary of Defense ISR policy formulation and oversight have been and will continue to be of interest to the committee. Long-standing concerns of the committee remain: lack of an adequate long-term ISR architecture and acquisition strategy; lack of supporting analysis for programmatic decisions; failure to balance collection programs data output with adequate resources to process, exploit, and disseminate data and analysis; and unnecessary proliferation of manned and unmanned vehicles and sensors. The committee will expect the Joint Staff and Joint Requirements Oversight Council to take a more active role in coordinating ISR system acquisition and coordinating employment with the combatant commanders.

DIRECTED ENERGY PROGRAMS

Each of the military services and the Office of the Secretary of Defense within the Department of Defense have continued to fund numerous directed energy research and development efforts for the last three decades. While some limited capabilities have been successfully demonstrated, in most cases the results achieved have not lived up to expectations. The committee has continued to support these efforts, especially as they support missile defense and other emerging concepts for countering anti-access and area denial threats. In the 113th Congress, the committee will more closely examine organizing concepts provided by the military services and the Office of Secretary of Defense as demonstration projects become viable programs and the respective services develop acquisition plans in support of fielding directed energy capabilities.

NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

The committee oversees the atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy (DOE) and nuclear policies and programs of the Department of Defense (DOD) to ensure the safety, security, reliability, and credibility of the U.S. nuclear deterrent. Particular emphasis will be placed on oversight of DOE and the DOD nuclear modernization plans, including but not limited to infrastructure investments, warhead life extension programs, stockpile stewardship and management plans, delivery system modernization, nuclear command and control, and security. The committee will closely watch the Administration's funding of the nuclear enterprise to ensure sufficient resources are provided and allocated effectively across DOE and DOD requirements.

The committee will also provide oversight of the Administration's nuclear policy and posture, extended deterrence policy, arms con-

trol activities, nuclear nonproliferation activities, and force structure requirements. Particular emphasis will be placed on oversight of the Administration's nuclear weapons policies, including changes to nuclear weapon employment policies and efforts to reduce U.S. nuclear forces. The committee will also review the effectiveness of DOE and DOD organization and management of the nuclear enterprise, including coordination of plans and policies via the joint Nuclear Weapons Council, the performance and efficiency of the National Nuclear Security Administration, laboratory and production site management and operations, workforce sustainment, and management of defense nuclear waste.

MISSILE DEFENSE

The committee oversees the Department of Defense's efforts to develop, test, and field layered missile defense capabilities to protect the United States, its deployed forces, and its friends and allies against the full range of ballistic missile threats. Particular emphasis will be placed on U.S. homeland missile defense capabilities, European Phased Adaptive Approach implementation and ensuring an adequate hedging strategy for the protection of the U.S. homeland, developmental and operational testing, force structure and inventory requirements, sensor-to-shooter integration, and science and technology investments in areas such as directed energy. The committee will be closely watching the Administration's funding of the missile defense program, seeking the cost-effective application of resources, and looking for opportunities to bring greater stability to the industrial base.

The committee will continue to monitor foreign ballistic missile threats and identify opportunities to strengthen international missile defense cooperation with allies and partners such as the State of Israel, Japan, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization member states. Department of Defense oversight and management of missile defense activities, including the roles, responsibilities, and acquisition policies and procedures of the Missile Defense Agency and military services will also be reviewed. The committee will also provide oversight of the Administration's missile defense policy and posture, including close examination of any Administration efforts that may limit missile defenses as part of a treaty or agreement, and implications for United States, regional, and global security.

NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE

The committee oversees the national security space programs of the Department of Defense, including combat support agencies and elements of the Department of Defense that are part of the Intelligence Community. Particular attention will be placed on space acquisition strategies that reduce technical risk and promote greater stability and predictability in the industrial base to maintain or advance capabilities while reducing cost; mitigating risks that could create gaps in space capabilities; affordability and increasing government buying power; science and technology investments and improving the transition of technologies to baseline programs; assured access to space, including opportunities for competition while maintaining mission assurance through our national security space launch programs; exploitation of space sensor data to maximize ef-

fectiveness and efficiency; and improving the synchronization between satellite and terminal acquisition programs.

The committee will continue to monitor foreign space threats and assess the Department's space situational awareness, space protection, space control, and operationally responsive space activities. The committee will also provide oversight of the Administration's space policy and posture, review efforts to improve governance and management across the national security space enterprise, and promote efforts that sustain the technical workforce.

EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

INVESTMENT IN FUTURE CAPABILITIES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Department of Defense faces difficult choices as it balances the competing needs of capabilities for current operations and those projected for future conflicts. In order to address the latter, investments must be made in the Department's Science and Technology (S&T) programs, and aligned appropriately with continued development and procurement programs to position the Department to meet those future challenges. Preparing for the challenges of the future, the Department must create a portfolio of technological options that can address the perceived threats identified in the defense planning process, as well as the emergence of unanticipated events or strategic competitors. Overcoming the bureaucratic inertia of existing acquisition roadmaps should be more properly balanced with capabilities to institutionalize adaptability. With the emergence of nontraditional adversaries pursuing "complex irregular warfare," the Department of Defense recognized that true transformation required investment in additional capability areas. The committee will continue to encourage the Department to plan and execute a balanced S&T program that ensures the U.S. military can retain superiority for future generations.

CYBER OPERATIONS CAPABILITIES

Cyber operations have taken on an increasingly important role in military operations as well as national security more broadly. Accordingly, the committee will continue to closely scrutinize the Department's cyber operations, organization, manning and funding to ensure the military has the freedom of maneuver to conduct the range of missions in the nation's defense, and when called upon, to support other interagency and international partners. An important oversight role for Congress regarding the conduct of defensive and offensive cyber operations will be to ensure proper legal and policy frameworks are in place and are followed. The committee will also continue to scrutinize military cyber operations to ensure they are properly integrated into combatant commander's operational plans, and to ensure that adequate capabilities exist or are in development to employ these cyberspace operational tools with rigor and discretion to support a full range of options for national decision makers. In the course of monitoring the cybersecurity posture of the military, the committee will also continue to examine the effects of globalization on the assured integrity of microelectronics and software.

INFORMATION OPERATIONS

Engagement with foreign audiences and nuanced understanding of the information environment is pivotal in countering violent extremists, interrupting the radicalization process, and identifying and countering efforts at deception and misinformation. As such, strategic engagement is a key element to success on the battlefield and an important tool to prevent or deter conflict before escalation. The committee will pay particular attention to the Department of Defense's information operations strategy and how these tools will be further developed and adapted to support warfighter needs in a changing security environment. These activities enable military operations and military support to diplomacy, and the committee will continue to conduct oversight of these critical capabilities as they transition from a wartime to a peacetime security posture.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Resolved: That the Committee on the Budget, pursuant to clause 2(d) of House Rule X, adopts as the Oversight Plan of the Committee on the Budget for the 113th Congress the following:

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION/OVERSIGHT

Under clause 2(d) of House Rule X, each Committee is required to adopt and submit to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and House Administration an oversight plan by February 15 of the first session of each Congress. The Budget Committee's oversight responsibilities include both the breadth of the Federal budget and its legislative jurisdiction.

Under clause 1(d)(1) of House Rule X, the primary responsibility of the Budget Committee is the development of a concurrent budget resolution that sets spending and revenue levels in aggregate and across 21 budget functions.

Although the subject matter of the budget is inherently broad, in addition to oversight of the budget and the economy, the Committee's formal oversight responsibility includes laws governing the budget process and the agencies responsible for administering elements of those laws. Under clauses 1(d)(1)–(3) of House Rule X, the major laws falling within its oversight are the Budget and Accounting Act of 1920, the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, and the Budget Control Act of 2011. The two agencies with primary responsibility for administering elements of these laws and hence which fall under the Committee's jurisdiction are the Office of Management and Budget [OMB] and the Congressional Budget Office [CBO].

In addition to these general oversight responsibilities, the Budget Committee has the special oversight responsibility under clause 3(c) of House Rule X to study the effect of budget outlays of existing and proposed legislation and to request and evaluate continuing studies of tax expenditures.

OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR 113TH CONGRESS

Budget Priorities

In the process of developing the annual concurrent budget resolution, the Committee will hold hearings and receive testimony from Members of Congress, Cabinet-level and other Federal officials, State and local officials, and expert witnesses to review the budget and economic outlook, the President's budget submissions and other budget proposals.

The Committee will review and pursue budget process reform legislation.

The Committee will assess the performance of Federal agencies in both administration and service delivery by reviewing performance data in the President's budget submissions and the relevant reports and audits of the Government Accountability Office and the Offices of the Inspectors General.

The Committee will study the budgetary effect of existing law and proposed legislation, as well as government regulation, on government spending, and explore ways of reducing waste, fraud, and abuse in government agencies.

The Committee will draw on the authorizing Committee's Views and Estimates on the President's Budget, which are submitted to it pursuant to section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act, to coordinate its oversight activities with other Committees.

The Committee will continue to review the budgetary treatment of assistance to, and ongoing operations of, Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac).

Budget Enforcement

The Committee will provide ongoing oversight of the Office of Management and Budget's implementation of budget submission, control, execution, and enforcement procedures under the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, and other applicable laws.

The Committee will assess the extent to which both the President's budget submissions and the budget resolutions for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 comply with applicable budget laws. The Committee will also work to ensure compliance of the budget-related provisions of H. Res. 5.[1]

As part of these responsibilities, the chair may provide authoritative guidance concerning the impact of a legislative proposition on the levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority and revenues.[2]

The Committee will enforce spending limitations and improve accountability pursuant to H. Res. 5, prohibiting consideration of a bill, joint resolution, amendment or conference report if the provisions of such measure have the net effect of increasing mandatory outlays.[3]

In addition, the Committee will monitor reclassifications of budget accounts, reestimates of the subsidies of credit programs, consistency in cost estimates for direct spending and tax bills, compliance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and other relevant laws, in the development of budget projections, and changes in spend-out rates for discretionary programs, and implementation of performance plans.

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[1] H. Res. 5 (Adopting Rules for the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress) Rule #XXIX, Clause 4.

[2] H. Res. 5 (Adopting Rules for the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress) Rule #XXIX, Clause 4.

[3] H. Res. 5 (Adopting Rules for the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress) Rule #XXI, Clause 10.

The Committee will work with the Appropriations Committee and the authorizing Committees to ensure that spending and tax legislation does not breach the appropriate levels in the budget resolution, as required under sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 or violate the budget provisions of H. Res. 5.

Direct Spending and Tax Expenditures

The Committee will request and evaluate continuing studies of tax expenditures and direct spending by the Federal Government, and whether they are the most appropriate and efficient means to achieve specified public policy goals.

Economic Policy

The Committee will study how economic policies affect the Federal budget. The Committee will also study monetary policy and its effects on the Federal budget. The Committee plans to take testimony from the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben Bernanke to review economic conditions, fiscal conditions, and monetary policy.

OVERSIGHT SCHEDULE

The following are the Committee's initial plans for hearings and other oversight activities.

First Session (2013)

Winter 2013—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook—Director of CBO.

Winter 2013—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget—Director of OMB.

Winter 2013—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget—Treasury Secretary.

Winter 2013—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget—Members of Congress.

Winter 2013—Possible additional hearings on the President's budget and the budget outlook.

Winter 2013—Receive Views and Estimates from other Committees to coordinate development of the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Winter 2013—Possible hearing on Federal entitlement spending and the long-term budget outlook.

Winter-Spring 2013—Possible field hearings.

Spring 2013—Hearing on the economy—Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Summer 2013—Hearing on the long-term budget outlook.

Possible additional hearings to review federal spending, taxes, deficits, debt, the federal budget process, and the economy.

Second Session (2014)

Winter 2014—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook—Director of CBO.

Winter 2014—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget—Director of OMB.

Winter 2014—Hearing on the economy.

Winter 2014—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget—Treasury Secretary.

Winter 2014—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget—Members of Congress.

Winter 2014—Receive Views and Estimates from other Committees to coordinate in developing the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Summer 2014—Hearing on the long-term budget outlook.

Possible additional hearings may include reviewing federal spending, taxes, deficits, debt, and the economy.

The Committee will also conduct research, examine programs, and prepare analyses of fiscal and economic issues with an emphasis on providing for a more effective and accountable Federal government.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA AND CHAIRMAN MILLER: The Committee on Education and the Workforce considered and adopted its Oversight Plan for the 113th Congress on January 22, 2013. In accordance with House Rule X, I am pleased to provide the attached hardcopy version of the Oversight Plan of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for the 113th Congress. This is in addition to the electronic copy of the oversight plan that has been forwarded to your staff.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION PLAN

1. Adoption of an Oversight Plan

Each standing committee of the House is required to formally adopt an oversight plan at the beginning of each Congress. Specifically, clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives states in part:

> *Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, each standing committee shall, in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum present, adopt its oversight plan for that Congress. Such plan shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and to the Committee on House Administration.*

2. Jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce

Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives vests in the Committee on Education and the Workforce (the "committee") jurisdiction over issues dealing with students, education, workers, and workplace policy. Specifically, clause 1(e) of Rule X vests the committee with jurisdiction over the following subject-matter:

(1) Child labor;
(2) Gallaudet University and Howard University and Hospital;
(3) Convict labor and the entry of goods made by convicts into interstate commerce;
(4) Food programs for children in schools;
(5) Labor standards and statistics;
(6) Education or labor generally;
(7) Mediation and arbitration of labor disputes;
(8) Regulation or prevention of importation of foreign laborers under contract;
(9) Workers' compensation;
(10) Vocational rehabilitation;
(11) Wages and hours of labor;
(12) Welfare of miners; and
(13) Work incentive programs.

3. General Oversight Responsibilities

Clause 2 of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides in part:

(a) The various standing committees shall have general oversight responsibilities as provided in paragraph (b) in order to assist the House in—

(1) its analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of—

(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of Federal laws; and

(B) conditions and circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; and

(2) its formulation, consideration, and enactment of changes in Federal laws, and of such additional legislation as may be necessary or appropriate.

(b)(1) In order to determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within the jurisdiction of a committee are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress and whether they should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated, each standing committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations) shall review and study on a continuing basis—

(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;

(B) the organization and operation of Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities for the administration and execution of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;

(C) any conditions or circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation addressing subjects within its jurisdiction (whether or not a bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto); and

(D) future research and forecasting on subjects within its jurisdiction.

Clause 2 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides:

(n)(1) Each standing committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing during each 120-day period following the establishment of the committee on the topic of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which that committee may authorize.

(2) A hearing described in subparagraph (1) shall include a focus on the most egregious instances of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement as documented by any report the committee has received from a Federal Office of the Inspector General or the Comptroller General of the United States.

(o) Each committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing in any session in which the committee has received disclaimers of agency financial statements from auditors of any Federal agency that the committee may authorize to hear testimony on such disclaimers from representatives of any such agency.

(p) Each standing committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing on issues raised by reports issued by the Comptroller General of the United States indicating that Federal programs or operations that the committee may authorize are at high risk for waste, fraud, and mismanagement, known as the "high-risk list" or the "high-risk series."

4. Exercise of Oversight Responsibilities

Oversight is a constitutional prerogative and responsibility of the Congress. Oversight is a core objective of the committee. Accordingly, the committee will thoroughly oversee and investigate the various agencies, departments, and programs within its jurisdiction. In so doing, the committee will actively consult with other House committees having concurrent or germane jurisdiction. In its oversight proceedings, the committee will make full use of hearings in Washington, D.C. and of regional field hearings to ensure all relevant voices are heard and made part of the official record. Among other investigative techniques, the committee will visit relevant sites, correspond with affected parties, and review audits and investigations by, among others, the Congressional Research Service, the Government Accountability Office, the United States Attorney General, and the Offices of the Inspectors General of the Departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services.

The committee has identified several particular areas for oversight and investigation in the 113th Congress. These areas are discussed below:

General Departmental Activities. The committee will continue its oversight of all programs and statutes administered and enforced by the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Justice, and independent agencies within its jurisdiction. The committee will review Department of Education programs to ensure they are consistent with the appropriate federal role in education, operating in an effective and efficient manner, and following Congressional intent in their scope, activities, and operations. Regarding the Department of Labor, the committee will closely monitor and review the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' newly proposed administrative, paperwork, and recordkeeping requirements associated with the hiring and advancement of individuals with disabilities and veterans; regulations implementing recent legislative changes to the Family and Medical Leave Act; revisions to the temporary worker programs; and regulations relating to the Fair Labor Standards Act. The committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the Child Nutrition Act, including upcoming and recently released regulations by the Department of Agriculture.

Elementary and Secondary Education. The committee will continue to monitor the implementation of new and existing projects and programs created independently by the Department of Education such as Promise Neighborhoods and Race to the Top-District competition, and scrutinize the implementation of American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) programs such as Race to the Top, Investing in Innovation, and School Improvement Grants. The committee will examine the actions of the department in issuing waivers of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), including scrutinizing the department's role in approving state applications. The committee will examine federal policies that inhibit or prevent students' access to a high-quality elementary and

secondary education that best meets their individual needs, including public, public charter, private, or home school options.

Higher Education. The committee will continue to monitor the regulatory actions of the Department of Education to ensure all students have access to postsecondary education programs that allow them to enter the workforce ready to work, including examining any federal regulations that unfairly target one sector of higher education over another. The committee will increase its oversight over the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, including examining the ability of the department to properly serve all borrowers in a timely and equitable fashion.

Early Childhood. The committee will continue to monitor and review the Department of Health and Human Services' implementation of early childhood care and education programs. Specifically, the committee will examine the department's administration of the Head Start program, including its implementation of the new Designation Renewal System and other efforts to improve program quality in a fair, consistent, and transparent manner.

Child Safety. The committee believes children should have a safe and secure learning environment to attend school, from early education through higher education, and accordingly will conduct appropriate oversight. The committee will scrutinize the implementation and effectiveness of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the foremost federal law to prevent child abuse (last reauthorized in 2010), including pressing the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct and report on the results for several critical studies about program effectiveness. The committee will also examine school safety measures to understand what efforts are effective at protecting children from harm.

Job Training. The committee will continue to examine the effectiveness of the more than 40 federal workforce training programs or activities administered by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration and other federal agencies to ensure they meet the training needs of both employers and job seekers. The committee will actively conduct oversight of the Job Corps program, including examining recent budget shortfalls in the program, ensuring health and safety problems identified at center locations by the Inspector General have been resolved in a timely manner, and increasing accountability measures to turn around persistently low-performing centers.

Retirement Security. The committee will monitor the Department of Labor's administrative activity relating to employee benefit plans under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). The committee will continue to oversee regulatory and enforcement actions affecting single-employer and multiemployer defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans. Furthermore, the committee will continue its oversight of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, including its financial outlook and future solvency, its provision of financial assistance to insolvent multiemployer plans, and its administration of terminated plans. Finally, the committee will examine the administration's reports, required by statute, relating to the multiemployer pension system.

Union Democracy. The committee will conduct oversight and investigations, as appropriate, to ensure employee and employer

rights under the National Labor Relations Act are protected and applied consistently and without bias. The committee will work to ensure employee freedom when electing and participating in a union, and to ensure the National Labor Relations Board properly fulfills its responsibilities. Additionally, the committee will continue to monitor the Department of Labor's enforcement and administration of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act. The committee will scrutinize regulatory proposals and will investigate actions that reduce union transparency and accountability to their members.

Health Care. The committee will continue to perform aggressive oversight of the health care matters affecting employers and their workers, including the administration's implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). PPACA greatly expanded the role of government in the health care system. It made significant changes to the health insurance marketplace and the manner in which employers provide health insurance to workers and their families. Given the central role employers play in the delivery of health care, providing coverage to an estimated 160 million people, the committee has a responsibility to conduct oversight of the law's effects on employers' ability to offer their workers affordable health insurance plans. Specifically, the committee will continue to examine the extent to which PPACA affects the financial and administrative costs of employer-sponsored health insurance. Additionally, the committee will carry on its ongoing efforts to assess the impact of the law's new taxes on employers, workers' wages, hours worked, and job creation.

Workplace Safety. The committee recognizes that safe workplaces are vital to the well-being of our nation's workers and the strength of our economy. Accordingly, the committee will continue its efforts to ensure that federal workplace safety laws, including the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Mine Safety and Health Act, adequately protect American workers. The committee will also take steps to ensure that the agencies responsible for administering and enforcing these statutes do so fairly, effectively, and efficiently.

In addition, the committee reserves the right to review and investigate general legislative, administrative, and regulatory issues within the jurisdiction of the committee.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 13, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL E. ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA: Pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, please find attached the Oversight Plan for the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The Committee met in open markup session on February 5, 6, and 12, 2013, and adopted the oversight plan by a voice vote with no recorded opposition.

I look forward to working with you on oversight matters in the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

During the 113th Congress, the Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold hearings and conduct rigorous oversight over matters within its jurisdiction. The Committee will conduct thorough oversight, reach conclusions based on an objective review of the facts, and treat witnesses fairly. The Committee will request information in a responsible manner that is calculated to be helpful to the Committee in its oversight responsibilities. The Committee's oversight functions will focus on: 1) cutting government spending through the elimination of waste, fraud, and abuse and 2) ensuring laws are adequate to protect the public interest or are being implemented in a manner that protects the public interest, without stifling economic growth.

HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE ISSUES

PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will continue to examine issues related to the Department of Health and Human Services implementation of Public Law 111–148, The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and the related Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Public Law 111–152. This will include the numerous provisions contained within the law that affect the private insurance market in the United States, the creation of health insurance exchanges, and the operation of those exchanges by either the states or the federal government. The Committee will also examine the regulations and requirements imposed on both small and large businesses, and the law's effects on individuals.

The Committee will also evaluate what controls are in place to prevent bias, waste, fraud, and abuse in the management of PPACA and its programs. The Committee will monitor deadlines imposed on HHS by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and examine what procedures HHS has in place for meeting those deadlines and/or complying with missed deadlines. The Committee will examine what programs HHS has in place to improve the availability of reliable, consumer-oriented information on the cost and quality of health care goods, services, and providers. The Committee will also examine the status and future of employer-sponsored health care plans as well as the effects of PPACA's enactment on the states. The Committee will examine the impact of PPACA and its implementing regulations on the economy, consumers, and the health care industry as well as the process by which those regulations are drafted.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

The Committee will review the management, operations, and activity of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the programs it administers. The Committee will examine and review Medicare and Medicaid management and activity as it relates to ongoing Committee efforts to prevent bias, waste, fraud, and abuse in federal health care programs, particularly in the implementation of PPACA. The Committee will investigate the process by which CMS implements statutory formulas to set prices for Medicare payment, as well as the effectiveness of those formulas. The Committee will evaluate the competitive bidding process for durable medical equipment and examine ways to use similar programs in Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans. The Committee will examine the effects that the Medicaid expansion included in PPACA will have on state budgets, the budgets of individuals and families, the budgets of providers currently providing uncompensated care, and the impact it may have on access to health insurance and health care. The Committee will investigate the processes by which CMS prevents bias, waste, fraud, and abuse in the award of government contracts.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND DRUG SAFETY

The Committee will review whether the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is ensuring that regulated drugs are safe, effective, and available to American patients in an expeditious fashion. The Committee will also explore the interplay between these policies and drug innovation, both in the United States and abroad. Further, the Committee will examine FDA's enforcement of current drug safety laws and the issues involved in protecting the nation's supply chains against economically motivated and other forms of adulteration. The Committee will continue its investigation of FDA's handling of the 2012 fungal meningitis outbreak linked to contaminated, compounded drugs.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Committee will examine the roles of various federal agencies involved in insuring and protecting the public health, including the implementation and management of these programs. In particular, the Committee will review federal efforts on mental health and pandemic preparedness, including influenza preparedness.

TOBACCO

The Committee will examine the implementation of the 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, including regulatory actions by the Food and Drug Administration.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine issues relating to national energy policy, including U.S. policies that relate to production, supply, and consumption of electricity, oil and

natural gas, coal, hydroelectric power, nuclear power, hydraulic fracturing, and renewable energy. The Committee will examine the impact of government policies and programs on the exploration, production, and development of domestic energy resources, including issues relating to the nation's current energy infrastructure. The Committee will also continue to examine safety and security issues relating to energy exploration, production and distribution.

ELECTRICITY MARKETS

The Committee will review federal electricity policies of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ensure that those policies promote competitive wholesale power markets, transmission, and generation infrastructure upgrades, and compliance with relevant statutes. It will also examine the activities of the DOE and FERC relating to electric industry restructuring, protection of consumers, and the development of efficient and vigorous wholesale markets for electricity.

MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ITS NATIONAL LABORATORIES

The Committee will oversee management and operations issues at the Department of Energy (DOE), including oversight, management, and operations of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the national laboratories. The Committee's oversight work will include a review of the implementation of security and safety reforms at NNSA and DOE facilities, ongoing safety and security matters, the Office of Environmental Management's cleanup program, and DOE's implementation of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

The Committee will examine the financial and other implications of DOE's decision to abandon licensing for Yucca Mountain as a nuclear waste repository, and the potential impact of this action on the future of nuclear energy in the United States. The Committee will also continue to examine the actions of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in connection with its obligations under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

The Committee will review the activities of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The Committee will examine NRC's budget requests and conduct oversight of the manner in which the Commission discharges its various responsibilities, including licensing activity, the safety and security of nuclear power facilities, and the agency's post-Fukushima regulatory changes.

CLEAN AIR ACT

The Committee will continue to review significant rulemakings under the Clean Air Act and the potential economic and job impacts of those rulemakings on the energy, manufacturing and construction industries and other critical sectors of the U.S. economy,

as well as any public health and environmental benefits of the regulations. The Committee's review will include oversight of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decisions, strategies and actions to meet Clean Air Act standards, and the current role of cost, employment and feasibility considerations in Clean Air Act rulemakings.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Committee will continue to monitor international negotiations on efforts to control greenhouse gas emissions in connection with concerns about global climate change. In addition, the Committee will examine the EPA's efforts to regulate domestic greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act based on its endangerment finding. The Committee will consider whether such agreements and regulatory efforts are scientifically well grounded. The Committee will also review the activities undertaken in this area by the Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and other agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction, including efforts to prepare for and respond to weather events and natural disasters in the future.

EPA MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee intends to conduct general oversight of the EPA, including review of the agency's funding decisions, resource allocation, grants, research activities, enforcement actions, relations with State and local governments, public transparency, and respect for economic, procedural, public health, and environmental standards in regulatory actions. The oversight will also include EPA program management and implementation, including efforts to reduce fraud and abuse in the renewable fuels program.

INVESTMENT IN THE GREEN ENERGY SECTOR

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, or the stimulus) provided $84.6 billion in new spending for the green energy sector, as well as $21.6 billion in tax credits for energy, transport, and climate science. The Committee will continue to review how this money was spent; the development of new technologies, products, and businesses focused on green energy; and how this spending has impacted the domestic suppliers or manufacturers of alternative energy products.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

A MODERN COMMUNICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR THE INNOVATION AGE

The Committee will exercise its jurisdiction over wired and wireless communications to ensure our nation's policies governing voice, video, audio and data services are promoting investment, innovation and job creation. The country's current regulatory regime takes a siloed approach in which different technological platforms—such as wireline, wireless, broadcast, cable, and satellite—are regulated differently based on regulations that may be decades old. As we move deeper into the Internet era, however, providers are in-

creasingly using these platforms to offer the same or similar services. The committee will examine whether these regulations should be updated to better meet the communications needs of the country and ensure its citizens enjoy cutting edge services, as well as the economic benefits they bring.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), including the effect of the FCC's decisions on innovation and the U.S. economy. Among other things, the Committee will evaluate the impact generally of FCC actions on voice, video, audio, and data services, and on public safety. The Committee will pay particular attention to whether the FCC conducts cost-benefit and market analyses before imposing regulations. The Committee will also conduct oversight to improve FCC procedures and transparency.

SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Communications Commission's and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) management and allocation of the nation's spectrum for commercial and government use. Spectrum is increasingly being used to provide voice, video, audio, and data services to consumers. The Committee will evaluate spectrum-management policies to ensure efficient use of the public airwaves for innovative communications services. The Committee will also examine whether plans for allocating spectrum maximizes broadband deployment and encourages investment. The Committee will pay particular attention to FCC and NTIA implementation of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, which is intended to make more spectrum available for mobile broadband services as well as raise as much as $7 billion in spectrum auction proceeds to help build a nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network.

BROADBAND

The Committee will investigate whether regulatory policies are helping or hindering broadband deployment. For example, the Committee will conduct oversight of the $7 billion dollars allocated by the ARRA to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Rural Utility Service (RUS) for broadband grants and loans. In particular, the Committee will examine what procedures are in place to control waste, fraud, and abuse of broadband stimulus funds, whether the funds were appropriately targeted, and the impact of the funding on jobs and the economy.

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The Committee will exercise its jurisdiction over wired and wireless communications to ensure continued growth and investment in the Internet. In particular, the Committee will monitor efforts to replace the successful multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance—in which non-governmental entities develop best practices

for the management of Internet networks and content—with regulation.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee will examine whether the communications needs of first responders are being met. The Committee will examine the progress being made to ensure that first responders have interoperable communications capabilities with local, state, and federal public safety officials. The Committee will also consider whether first responders have an adequate amount of spectrum for voice, video, and data transmissions. In addition, the Committee will conduct oversight regarding the implementation of legacy 911 and Next Generation 911 (NG911) services. NG911 relies on IP-based architecture rather than the PSTN-based architecture of legacy 911 to provide an expanded array of emergency communications services that encompass both the core functionalities of legacy E911 and additional functionalities that take advantage of the enhanced capabilities of IP-based devices and networks.

COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING, AND TRADE ISSUES

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine issues relating to the privacy and security of information and data collected by businesses about consumers and the potential for improving protection without undercutting innovative uses that benefit consumers and the economy. Further, the Committee will continue to review the manner in which fraud and other criminal issues affect e-commerce.

MANUFACTURING AND TRADE

The Committee will explore the state of manufacturing in the United States to identify factors that are hampering or furthering U.S. competitiveness. The Committee will review the issues presented by the globalization of production and manufacturing networks, including the integrity of products and components assembled overseas and the impact on national security.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Commerce Department and complementary or conflicting federal efforts to promote U.S. manufacturing, exports, and trade, including efforts to lower or eliminate non-tariff barriers and harmonize regulation of products sold internationally where other countries share our health, safety, and consumer protection goals.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will continue oversight of the CPSC and its implementation and enforcement of laws and regulations relating to the safety of consumer products, including the agency's implementation of Public Law No. 112–28 and determination of priorities.

NHTSA Management and Operations

The Committee intends to conduct oversight of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, including the costs and benefits of its regulations, research activities, investigations, and enforcement actions pertaining to motor vehicle and motor coach safety.

Federal Trade Commission Management And Operations

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Trade Commission's management and operations, including the impact of its decisions and actions on the general public and the business community, its determination of priorities and the need, if any, for refinement of its authorities.

MISCELLANEOUS

Cybersecurity

The Committee will exercise its jurisdiction over cybersecurity to ensure the country is well protected while at the same time avoiding one-size-fits all approaches that hinder the flexibility of commercial and governmental actors need to combat the rapidly evolving threats. The Committee will also review the efforts of agencies within its jurisdiction to secure their networks consistent with the Homeland Security Act of 2002. This Act included a separate legislative provision entitled the Federal Information Security Management Act, which reauthorized and enhanced a government-wide cyber security program under the direction of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Stimulus Spending

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will continue to monitor issues of waste, fraud, abuse, and effectiveness of spending related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment.

Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response

The Committee continues its investigation of the BioWatch program, the nation's first early detection and warning capability for biological attacks, and its impact on the nation's public health system. Among the goals of this investigation are to determine how the BioWatch program is performing and whether it is meeting public protection goals. The Committee will continue to review the implementation of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 by HHS, and the extent of the coordination between HHS and the Department of Homeland Security.

Federal Oversight of High-Containment Bio Laboratories

The Committee will examine issues related to high-containment bio laboratories, which handle some of the world's most exotic and dangerous diseases, including anthrax, smallpox, foot and mouth disease and Ebola virus. Among the issues under review are whether Federal plans or efforts to oversee high-containment bio

laboratories are adequate, and whether some of these efforts are duplicative and overlapping.

ANTI-TERRORISM SECURITY FOR CHEMICAL FACILITIES

The Committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's implementation of the Chemical Facilities Ant-Terrorism Program, originally authorized in Section 550 of P.L. 109–295, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007. The Committee will continue to examine whether taxpayer funds are spent prudently and the extent to which the Department is advancing the purpose of securing chemical facilities against terrorist threats.

GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC AND RISK ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine issues relating to the numerous federal science programs assessing public health risks, including the Integrated Risk Information System at the Environmental Protection Agency, the Report on Carcinogens produced by the National Toxicology Program at the Department of Health and Human Services, and assessments proposed or ongoing in other federal departments and agencies. The Committee will review programs to assess the objectives, transparency, and integrity of scientific assessments that inform regulatory and public health policies.

CONTROLLING SPENDING

The Committee will examine Departments and agencies under its jurisdiction to assure adequate and prompt implementation of recommendations from the Administration, the Offices of Inspectors General, the GAO or other sources to achieve cost savings or eliminate wasteful spending.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In June 2006, the Bush Administration issued a National Infrastructure Protection Plan. This plan created a process by which the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is to identify critical assets and assess their vulnerabilities and risks due to loss or natural disaster. During the 113th Congress, the Committee will review the Department's activities with respect to identifying high-priority assets and implementing plans to protect these assets in areas within the Committee's jurisdiction.

NUCLEAR SMUGGLING

The Committee will continue to monitor Federal government and private sector efforts at border crossings, seaports, and mail facilities. The Committee's review will analyze and assess Customs' and DOE's efforts and the utility of equipment aimed at detecting and preventing the smuggling of dangerous commerce, particularly nuclear and radiological weapons of mass destruction.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 7, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL E. ISSA,
Chairman, Oversight and Government Reform Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to House Rule X, Clause (2)(d)(1), we are enclosing the Committee's Oversight Plan for the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

LINDA SÁNCHEZ,
Ranking Member.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

The oversight plan of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) for the 113th Congress, adopted pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of House Rule X, is as follows.

The Committee is in the unusual circumstance that while its legislative jurisdiction is confined to the House Code of Official Conduct (House Rule XXIII),[1] the Committee itself administers a range of ethics laws, rules and standards for House Members, officers and employees, as well as, in some instances, certain other legislative branch officials. A brief summary of the various provisions of law and rules that confer such responsibility and authority upon the Committee is provided below. In addition, among the functions assigned to the Committee in the House Rules are—

- To recommend to the House "such administrative actions as it may consider appropriate to establish or enforce standards of official conduct" for Members and staff, and
- To investigate alleged violations by Members or staff of the House Code of Official Conduct or other law, rule or standard of conduct applicable to official conduct.[2]

Furthermore, under the Ethics Reform Act of 1989, the Committee is charged with providing to House Members and staff, through its Office of Advice and Education, information and guidance on the applicable ethics laws and rules, and responding to their questions on the application of the laws and rules in particular circumstances.[3]

In fulfilling its responsibilities as summarized above, the Committee, on a daily basis, deals directly with the various laws, rules and regulations in its jurisdiction. These include rules on acceptance of gifts, the limitations on outside earned income and employment, the prohibition against private subsidy of official House activities, applications of the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act and the rules on proper use of official House resources and proper use of campaign resources.

Accordingly, in the fulfillment of its regular duties, there may be instances in which a change in a law, rule or Committee interpretation may be in order related to a matter within the Committee's jurisdiction. When such instances arise, the Committee's practice is to propose appropriate amendments to statutory law or the House Rules, or, where the change is one that can be made by the Committee on its own authority, to effect an appropriate change.

In performing its duties under law and House Rules, the Committee will continue to be alert for instances in which a change in a law, rule or standard of conduct may be in order. When such instances arise, the Committee will seek information on, study and

[1] House Rule X, cl. 1(g).
[2] House Rule XI, cl. 3(a)(1), (2).
[3] 2 U.S.C. 29d(i).

discuss the matter and develop appropriate changes. The Committee will itself effect those changes that are within its authority, but where a change would require amendment of statutory law or House Rules, the Committee will bring the matter to the attention of the House leadership and other committees as appropriate.

Provisions of the House Rules and Statutory Law that Confer Specific Authorities on the Committee

• The House gift rule (House Rule XXV, cl. 5) provides, in paragraph (h), that its provisions are to be interpreted and enforced solely by the Committee.

• House Rule XI, cl. 3(b)(7) provides that the Committee is to have the functions designated in titles I and V of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (relating to financial disclosure and the outside earned income and employment limitations), 5 U.S.C. §§ 7342 (the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act), 7351 (on gifts to superiors), and 7353 (on gifts to Federal employees), and House Rule X, cl. 11(g)(4) (on unauthorized disclosure of intelligence).

• Provisions of the financial disclosure statute designate the Committee as the "supervising ethics office" for House Members, officers and employees and certain other Legislative Branch officers and employees (5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 109(18)(B)) and state that the statute is to be administered by the Committee with regard to those Members, officers and employees (id. § 111(2)). The Committee also reviews the financial disclosure statements filed by candidates for the House.

• A provision of the statute establishing the outside earned income and employment limitations states that those limitations are to be administered by the Committee with respect to House Members and staff, as well as certain Legislative Branch officers and employees (5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 503(1)).

• For certain purposes under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, the Committee is designated as the "employing agency" of House Members and staff (5 U.S.C. § 7342(a)(6)).

• Both the Committee and the House of Representatives are designated as the "supervising ethics office" of House Members, officers and employees in the statute that governs gifts to Federal employees (5 U.S.C. § 7353(d)(1)(A)), as well as the statute on gifts to superiors (id. § 7351(c)). Those statutes also designate the Committee as the supervising ethics office for certain other Legislative Branch officers and employees (id. § 7353(d)(1)(E)).

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ
Ranking Member.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

OVERSIGHT PLAN

FEBRUARY 15, 2013.—Approved by the Committee on Financial Services

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Mr. HENSARLING, from the Committee on Financial Services, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following

R E P O R T

Clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 113th Congress requires each standing committee, not later than February 15 of the first session, to adopt an oversight plan for the 113th Congress. The oversight plan must be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration.

The following agenda constitutes the oversight plan of the Committee on Financial Services for the 113th Congress. It includes areas in which the Committee and its subcommittees expect to conduct oversight during this Congress, but does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters or programs as they arise. Any areas mentioned in the oversight plan may be considered by the Financial Services Committee, the four subcommittees of jurisdiction or the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. The Committee will consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share jurisdiction on any of the subjects listed below.

THE DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

Enacted in response to the financial crisis of 2008 and the bailouts of large Wall Street firms at taxpayer expense, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111–203) represents the most extensive change in the regulation of financial institutions since the Great Depression. The implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act will affect not only every financial institution that does business in the United States but also non-financial institutions and consumers as well. The Dodd-Frank Act holds out the promise that it will "promote the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system," "end too big to fail,'" "protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts," and "protect consumers from abusive financial services practices." One of the primary tasks of the Com-

mittee in the 113th Congress will therefore be to continue to oversee the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act to ensure that these objectives are being met. The Committee will conduct careful oversight and monitoring of the financial regulators charged with implementing the Dodd-Frank Act to ensure that they prudently exercise the new authority conferred upon them under the Act without unduly hampering the ability of consumers and businesses to obtain credit, or the ability of capital market participants to allocate capital to productive uses, mitigate risk, and grow the economy. In particular, the Committee will seek to ensure that regulators carefully and transparently assess the costs and benefits of regulations called for by the Dodd-Frank Act in order to strike an appropriate balance between prudent regulation and economic growth. The Committee will also examine the extent to which a lack of global coordination on financial reforms could place the United States financial services industry at a competitive disadvantage. As part of this review, the Committee will examine the "living wills" process provided in the statute, and whether that process has enhanced the regulators' ability to understand risks posed by large institutions and to facilitate the orderly liquidation of a large institution.

SPECIFIC DODD-FRANK OVERSIGHT MATTERS

Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC). Created by the Dodd-Frank Act, the Financial Stability Oversight Council is an interagency body charged with identifying, monitoring and addressing potential threats to U.S. financial stability. The Dodd-Frank Act requires the FSOC to report annually to Congress, to be followed by testimony by the Secretary of the Treasury in his capacity as FSOC Chairman. The Committee will conduct significant oversight over the FSOC, monitoring among other things the extent to which its designation of "systemically significant" firms may create an expectation among market participants that the government will not permit these firms to fail, as well as the effectiveness of the FSOC in making financial markets more stable and resilient.

Office of Financial Research (OFR). Created by the Dodd-Frank Act and housed within the Department of the Treasury, the Office of Financial Research is charged with collecting and analyzing financial transaction and position data in support of the FSOC. The OFR has broad powers to compel the production of information and data from financial market participants, and it will use this information to conduct research designed to improve the quality of financial regulation, and to monitor and report on systemic risk. Section 153 of the Dodd-Frank Act requires the OFR to report annually to Congress on the state of the U.S. financial system, and requires the Director of the OFR to testify annually before the Committee on the OFR's activities and its assessment of systemic risk. The Committee will conduct oversight of the OFR to ensure that the office is transparent and accountable, that it makes progress towards fulfilling its statutory duties, that its requests for data are not unduly burdensome or costly, and that the confidentiality of the data that it collects is strictly maintained. The Committee will also assess whether the OFR duplicates data collection efforts already being undertaken by other regulatory bodies.

Volcker Rule. Section 619 of the Dodd-Frank Act, popularly known as the "Volcker Rule," prohibits U.S. bank holding companies and their affiliates from engaging in "proprietary trading" and from sponsoring hedge funds and private equity funds. The Committee will oversee the Federal regulators' implementation of the Volcker Rule to ensure that it does not result in unintended consequences for U.S. economic competitiveness and job creation, depress the value of pension plans and retirement accounts, or drain substantial amounts of liquidity from the U.S. capital markets.

"Too Big to Fail." The Committee will oversee the implementation of Titles I and II of the Dodd-Frank Act, which authorize the Federal government to designate large, complex financial institutions for heightened prudential standards and supervision and to exercise so-called "orderly liquidation authority" to resolve any firm whose failure the government decides could destabilize the financial system. The purpose of this review will be to test the claims by the proponents of the Dodd-Frank Act that these provisions have effectively ended "Too Big to Fail," as well as the claims of those who contend that they have instead further entrenched that doctrine, leaving in place a system that subverts market discipline and confers competitive advantages on the nation's largest financial institutions at the expense of institutions deemed "too small to save."

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT

Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (CFPB). The Committee will oversee the activities of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which was created by the Dodd-Frank Act and charged with "regulating the offering and provision of consumer financial products or services under the Federal consumer financial laws." The Committee will seek to ensure that the CFPB's regulatory, supervisory and enforcement initiatives protect consumers against unfair and deceptive practices without stifling economic growth, job creation, or reasonable access to credit. In particular, the Committee will review CFPB enforcement actions to determine whether such actions are based on clearly articulated rules and the extent to which such actions are based on discretionary, arbitrary and undefined standards. The Committee will also review how the CFPB collaborates and coordinates with other Federal and State financial regulators, and how the CFPB is fulfilling its statutory duty to ensure that "outdated, unnecessary, or unduly burdensome regulations are regularly identified and addressed in order to reduce unwarranted regulatory burdens." The Committee will continue to examine whether the CFPB's budget and its source of funding is appropriate as well as whether the CFPB's budget should be subject to Congressional appropriations. The Committee will evaluate the powers of a presidentially appointed, non-Senate confirmed Director to write rules, supervise compliance, and enforce consumer protection laws. The Committee will monitor the impact of CFPB actions on small businesses and on financial institutions of all sizes, and in particular, on those with fewer than $10 billion of assets. The Committee will receive the statutorily required semiannual testimony of the Director.

Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). The Committee will continue to examine the operation of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, authorized by the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (EESA), to ensure that the program is being administered properly and that any instances of waste, fraud or abuse are identified and remedied. The Committee will analyze the unwinding of TARP facilities and programs to ensure that taxpayer recoveries are maximized and remaining funds are used for deficit reduction, as contemplated by EESA. The Committee will also examine the extent to which other government programs, such as the Small Business Lending Fund, are used by recipients of TARP funds for repayment of such funds.

Financial Supervision. The Committee will continue to examine Federal regulators' safety and soundness supervision of the banking, thrift and credit union industries, to ensure that systemic risks or other structural weaknesses in the financial sector are identified and addressed promptly. The Committee may also ask each financial regulatory agency to review its promulgated rules and identify those which may be unnecessarily burdensome or outdated. Additionally, the Committee's examination of the regulatory system will encompass the trend toward consolidation in the banking industry, which requires Federal regulators to maintain the expertise and risk evaluation systems necessary to oversee the activities of the increasingly complex institutions under their supervision. As an extension of this examination, the Committee will assess the degree to which the increasing concentration of bank assets in the largest institutions may contribute to a regulatory environment that discriminates against the smaller but much more numerous community banks.

Capital Standards and Basel III. The Committee will continue to examine new global bank capital and liquidity rules being developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. In particular, the Committee will call upon the Federal banking regulators to explain how their implementing regulations balance safety and soundness concerns against the needs of consumers and businesses for continued access to credit, and how standards adopted in Basel will be tailored to meet the unique features of the U.S. financial system, and particularly the specific needs of community banks. The Committee will also examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council's study on the effects of limits on the size and complexity of financial institutions on capital market efficiency and economic growth. The Committee will seek to ensure that the rules maintain the stability of the financial system yet preserve the ability of that system to pursue responsible risk-taking.

Mortgages. The Committee will closely review recent rulemakings by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and other agencies on a variety of mortgage-related issues. The Committee will monitor the coordination and implementation of these rules and the impact they will have on the cost and availability of mortgage lending for consumers and creditors. Of particular interest to the Committee will be recently proposed or finalized rules on the Dodd-Frank Act's ability-to-repay and Qualified Mortgage requirements, mortgage servicing, escrows, high-cost "HOEPA" loan restrictions, negative amortization, points and fees on open-end

credit, appraisals, and origination disclosures. Recognizing that the foreclosure crisis continues to hold back the recovery and plague communities, the Committee will oversee efforts to encourage cooperation between government and the private sector to provide overdue relief to struggling families.

Deposit Insurance. The Committee will monitor the solvency of the Deposit Insurance Fund and changes to the assessments charged by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as mandated by the Dodd-Frank Act to ensure that deposit insurance continues to serve its historic function as a source of stability in the banking system and a valued safety net for depositors.

Bank Failures. The Committee will examine the process the FDIC uses to supervise and, if necessary, resolve community banks and the procedures followed by the FDIC and other bank supervisors in making this determination. Some observers have noted there are inconsistencies in the application of FDIC practices as a bank moves into prompt corrective action and towards a failure. The Committee will consider the findings contained in a recent study by the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) entitled "Modified Prompt Corrective Action Framework Would Improve Effectiveness," and whether its recommendations should be adopted. Further, the Committee will study the costs and benefits of loss share agreements to the Deposit Insurance Fund and the American taxpayer. The Committee will also study how the FDIC's resolution procedures, including but not limited to loss share agreements, affect access to credit for small business customers of a failed bank, as well as the findings in the GAO's report entitled "Management Report: Opportunities for Improvements in FDIC's Shared Loss Estimation Process."

Community Banks. The Committee will review issues related to the health and growth of community banks, including their role in providing small business lending, local employment, and national economic growth. The Committee will review the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act reforms to FDIC Deposit Insurance Fund Assessments and CFPB oversight of non-depository consumer lending institutions on community bank competitiveness. The Committee will also examine the traditional lack of representation for community banks at the Department of the Treasury and the feasibility of creating an Assistant Secretary for Community Banks.

Credit Unions. The Committee will review issues relating to the safety and soundness and regulatory treatment of the credit union industry, including monitoring the solvency of the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund and overseeing the activities of the National Credit Union Administration.

Regulatory Burden Reduction. The Committee will continue to review the current regulatory burden on banks, thrifts, and credit unions with the goal of reducing unnecessary, duplicative, or overly burdensome regulations, consistent with consumer protection and safe and sound banking practices.

Credit Scores and Credit Reports. The Committee will continue to monitor the accuracy and completeness of information reported to and contained in consumers' credit files, with a specific focus on their impact on the availability of consumer credit. The Committee will explore the use of credit information in making non-credit deci-

sions such as employment and insurance purposes. In addition, the Committee will monitor the related rulemaking, supervisory, and enforcement activities of the CFPB in this area.

Access to Financial Services. The Committee will continue to explore ways to expand access to mainstream financial services by traditionally underserved segments of the U.S. population, particularly those without any prior banking history. The Committee will consider the impact that the policies, rules and actions of the CFPB have on the ability of alternative providers of credit to offer their products and services.

Payment Cards. The Committee will continue its review of payment card industry practices, particularly those relating to marketing, fees and disclosures. The Committee will also review efforts by the CFPB to regulate credit cards and prepaid cards, and the impact such efforts have on credit availability and the cost of credit for consumers and small businesses alike.

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund). The Committee will continue to oversee the operations of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which was created in 1994 to promote economic revitalization and community development. The Committee will examine the CDFI Fund's contributions to community revitalization and measure its impact on rural, urban, suburban, and Native American communities. The Committee will also monitor the CDFI Fund's administration of its various programs, such as the Bond Guarantee Program and the Bank Enterprise Award.

Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). The Committee will continue to review developments and issues related to the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, including recommendations for updating or eliminating CRA requirements in light of changes in the financial services sector.

Financial Literacy. The Committee will continue its efforts to promote greater financial literacy and awareness among investors, consumers, and the general public, particularly with respect to the best methods for promoting and improving financial education among children and young adults. As part of these efforts, the Committee will evaluate the efficacy of the CFPB's Office of Financial Education and the Treasury Department's Financial Literacy and Education Commission, and will receive updates on their ongoing activities, goals, and accomplishments. The Committee will also continue to review the credit counseling industry, which provides financial education and debt management services to consumers seeking to address excessive levels of personal indebtedness.

Discrimination in Lending. The Committee will examine the effectiveness of Federal fair lending oversight and enforcement efforts. In particular, the Committee will monitor operations, and evaluate the efficacy of, the CFPB's Office of Fair Lending and the Justice Department's Fair Lending Program.

Diversity in Financial Services. The Committee will continue to monitor Federal regulators' efforts to implement the diversity requirements of the Dodd-Frank Act.

Cyber Security and Identity Theft. Building on the Committee's long-standing role in developing laws governing the handling of sensitive personal financial information about consumers, including

the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACT Act), the Committee will continue to evaluate best practices for protecting the security and confidentiality of such information from any loss, unauthorized access, or misuse. The scope of this review will encompass the data security policies and protocols of the Federal agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee will also examine the effectiveness of current strategies being employed by the private sector and government agencies to prevent or disrupt financial crimes involving the use of the Internet, computers, or other access methods.

Payment System Innovations/Mobile Payments. The Committee will review government and private sector efforts to achieve greater innovations and efficiencies in the payments system. The Committee will examine payment system alternatives, including prepaid credit cards, the use of mobile devices to transfer value, web-based value-transfer systems, remote check deposit, and informal money transfer systems, businesses or networks, to determine both the efficiencies they can provide to customers, businesses and financial institutions, and their susceptibility to fraud, money laundering and terrorism financing, and other financial crimes.

Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism. The Committee will review the application and enforcement of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing laws and regulations. The Committee's work in this area will include an examination of (1) the costs and benefits of ongoing regulatory and filing requirements, (2) opportunities to decrease the burden of complying with these and similar statutes without impairing the operations of law enforcement, (3) the impact of these laws and regulations on immigrant communities that remit money to their countries of origin, and (4) emerging threats in the financing of terrorist activities and the use of informal methods of transferring value.

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). The Committee will examine the operations of Financial Crimes Enforcement Network and its ongoing efforts to implement its regulatory mandates pursuant to the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA), to combat money laundering and terrorist financing activities. The Committee will examine the confidentiality of BSA reports and examine the guidance issued by FinCEN to BSA examiners to foster more uniform examination and enforcement practices, and facilitate greater understanding among regulated financial institutions of the government's use of the information contained in BSA filings. The Committee shall further review the extent to which banking regulators work in cooperation with the Department of Justice to ensure that fraudulent and criminal conduct is immediately reported. The Committee shall also review recent consent orders and other enforcement actions taken against non-compliant financial institutions and whether those actions have resulted in improved BSA, anti-money laundering, and counter-terrorist financing programs. The Committee shall further consider whether aggressive enforcement action or criminal prosecution of a "significantly important financial institution," or employees therein, would compromise the financial stability of the U.S. economy.

Money Services Businesses (MSBs) and their Access to Banking Services. The Committee will examine the operations of Money

Services Businesses and assess the effectiveness of FinCEN and Internal Revenue Service regulation of MSBs. The Committee will examine impediments to the availability of account services to MSBs, and of FinCEN regulatory guidance to both MSBs and financial institutions that might affect the provision of such account services.

Banking Services for Americans Living Abroad. The Committee will examine the contentions of U.S. citizens living in foreign countries that they are being denied banking services by both U.S.-based and foreign financial institutions. The Committee will also review the extent to which certain U.S. laws have exacerbated the termination of bank accounts for U.S. citizens living abroad.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Committee will monitor all aspects of the Securities and Exchange Commission's operations, activities and initiatives to ensure that it fulfills its Congressional mandate to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation. The Committee will carefully examine the SEC's budget request to ensure that the agency deploys its resources effectively, and will specifically review the SEC's use of and commitments made to the $100 million "Reserve Fund" created by Section 991 of the Dodd-Frank Act. The Committee will consider the impact of separating the SEC's examination and policy functions and whether such functions should be consolidated, as well as the SEC's oversight of self-regulatory organizations (SROs) and how to improve SRO operations. The Committee will review the SEC's compliance, inspection, examination, and enforcement functions to ensure that adequate mechanisms exist to prevent and detect securities fraud and that there are suitable civil penalties available to the SEC to deter wrongdoing. As part of this review, the Committee will monitor the SEC's implementation of the reforms recommended by the SEC's Office of Inspector General resulting from the Commission's failure to detect either the Bernard Madoff or Allen Stanford Ponzi schemes. The Committee will continue to review the various reports and studies of the SEC's organizational structure and management mandated by Title IX of the Dodd-Frank Act. The Committee will also monitor and review the SEC's development of a consolidated audit trail to actively track all activity in national market systems (NMS) securities throughout the U.S. The Committee will examine the impact that sequestration could have on the SEC's ability to meet its statutory obligations.

Capital Formation. The Committee will examine the SEC's efforts to fulfill its Congressional mandate of facilitating capital formation. The Committee will continue to survey regulatory impediments to capital formation and seek legislative, regulatory and market-based incentives to increase access to capital, particularly for small public companies and those small companies that have recently completed or are contemplating an initial public offering as well as increasing investment opportunities for all investors while preserving investor protection.

The JOBS Act. The Committee will monitor the impact of the "Jumpstart Our Business Startups" or "JOBS" Act (P.L. 112–106) on the capital markets, investor protections, and the SEC's imple-

mentation of the law to ensure that the Commission fulfills Congressional intent and does not unnecessarily stifle the capital formation initiatives included in the law or delay the promulgation and adoption of rules required for the law's successful implementation.

Derivatives. The Committee will continue to review the impact of Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act on the operations, growth, transparency, and structure of the over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives market. The Committee will explore how the SEC, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the prudential regulators, and the Department of Treasury are implementing the regulations mandated by the Dodd-Frank Act to govern the OTC marketplace, including how U.S. regulators are coordinating their efforts with foreign counterparts, given the global and interconnected nature of that marketplace. The Committee will closely examine how completed rules are functioning in the marketplace and consider potential legislative and regulatory solutions to clarify the law's intent without impeding regulatory oversight. The Committee will also examine proper transparency and clarity for derivatives markets, which have previously been marked by opacity. The Committee will closely monitor Dodd-Frank implementation so that the new regulations foster market efficiency, provide price transparency through the increased use of swap execution facilities and clearing organizations, and provide consumers with important market information.

Credit Rating Agencies. The Committee will examine the continuing role that credit rating agencies, also known as Nationally Recognized Statistical Ratings Organizations (NRSROs), play in the U.S. capital markets, the SEC's oversight of NRSROs, NRSRO compensation models, and whether NRSRO methodologies accurately reflect the risks associated with different debt instruments. The Committee will examine the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act on competition among current NRSROs, and on new and prospective NRSROs. The Committee will examine the implementation by Federal regulators of provisions found in Section 939A of the Dodd-Frank Act requiring them to establish new standards for evaluating credit-worthiness that do not include references to ratings issued by NRSROs. The Committee will also closely examine any SEC initiatives to insert the government into the assignment of ratings.

Regulation and Oversight of Broker-Dealers and Investment Advisers. The Committee will review the SEC's regulation and oversight of broker-dealers and investment advisers, including the SEC's consideration of proposals to impose a harmonized standard of care applicable to broker-dealers and investment advisers when providing personalized investment advice to retail customers. The Committee will also review proposals that would harmonize the frequency of examinations of broker-dealers and investment advisers. The Committee will also monitor the coordination between the SEC and the Department of Labor regarding rules governing the provision of advice related to retirement accounts.

Equity/Option Market Structure. The Committee will review recent developments in the U.S. equity and option markets and the SEC's response to those developments. The Committee will closely monitor the SEC's responses to ensure that the Commission follows

its mandate to promote fair, orderly and efficient markets, and that any new regulations foster market efficiency, competition and innovation, and are based on economic and empirical market data. The Committee will review the growth and impact of algorithmic trading and the impact that market structure has on retail investors, small public companies, and the impact of decimalization on market quality and capital formation.

Corporate Governance. The Committee will review developments and issues concerning corporate governance at public companies and the SEC's proposals that seek to modernize corporate governance practices. The Committee will examine how the Dodd-Frank Act impacts the corporate governance practices of all issuers, particularly small public companies. The Committee will also examine the services provided by proxy advisory firms to shareholders and issuers to determine whether conflicts of interest exist. The Committee will continue to monitor the effect that the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 has on the capital markets and capital formation; the impact of the permanent exemption from Section 404(b) for public companies with less than $75 million in market capitalization; and proposals to further modify this exemption.

Employee Compensation. The Committee will monitor the implementation of provisions in Title IX of the Dodd-Frank Act governing the compensation practices at public companies and financial institutions.

Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC). The Committee will review the operations, initiatives, and activities of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, as well as the application of the Securities Investor Protection Act (SIPA). In light of SIPC's exposure to the failures of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities, Lehman Brothers, and MF Global, the Committee will examine SIPC's existing reserves, member broker-dealer assessments, access to private and public lines of credit, and coverage levels, as well as proposals to improve SIPC's operations and management. The Committee will also review the impact of the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act that amend the SIPA, and the work and recommendations of the SIPC Modernization Task Force.

Mutual Funds. The Committee will continue to examine the state and operation of the U.S. mutual fund industry, including pending regulatory proposals by the SEC and the FSOC to reform money market mutual funds, and private sector initiatives to improve investor understanding of money market fund valuations.

Advisers to Private Funds. The Committee will examine the functions served by advisers to private funds in the United States financial marketplace and their interaction with investors, financial intermediaries, and public companies.

Securitization and Risk Retention. The Committee will monitor the joint risk retention rule-making mandated by Section 941 of the Dodd-Frank Act to ensure that the development and implementation of the risk retention rules promote sound underwriting practices without constricting the flow of credit and destabilizing an already fragile housing market, and that those rules appropriately differentiate among multiple asset classes. The Committee will focus particular attention on the joint rulemaking to define a class

of qualified residential mortgages (QRMs) that will be exempt from risk retention requirements.

Covered Bonds. The Committee will review the potential for covered bonds to increase mortgage and broader asset class financing, improve underwriting standards, and strengthen United States financial institutions by providing a new funding source with greater transparency, thereby fostering increased liquidity in the capital markets. The Committee will also review whether existing regulatory initiatives, including the Department of the Treasury's Best Practices for Residential Covered Bonds—and the FDIC's covered bond policy statement to facilitate the prudent and incremental development of the U.S. covered bond market—are sufficient to foster the creation of a covered bond market in the United States, or whether additional regulatory or legislative initiatives are necessary.

Libor. The Committee will assess the conditions that gave rise to the manipulation of the London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) and the effect of that manipulation on financial markets, including the effects on consumers, businesses, financial institutions, and the financial system. The Committee will also examine whether U.S. financial regulators and supervisory authorities knew about the manipulation, and whether a more timely and aggressive intervention by these regulators might have prevented the manipulation or mitigated its effects. The Committee will continue to monitor the efforts of prudential and market regulators to address the conditions that gave rise to the manipulation of Libor as well as their efforts to create an alternative to Libor that can serve as a benchmark interest rate.

MF Global. As part of its continuing examination of the causes and consequences of the October 2011 collapse of MF Global, the Committee will review legislative proposals and regulatory recommendations to improve the operations and oversight of entities that are both broker-dealers and futures commission merchants.

Municipal Securities. The Committee will monitor the health of the United States municipal securities markets and evaluate proposals to increase transparency in that segment of the capital markets. The Committee will also examine provisions included in Titles VII and IX of the Dodd-Frank Act that are designed to strengthen municipal securities industry oversight and broaden municipal securities market protections to cover unregulated market participants and their financial transactions with municipal entities.

Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB). The Committee will review the operations, initiatives and activities of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. The Committee will review the changes imposed by Title IX of the Dodd-Frank Act, which altered the MSRB's governance to include the protection of state and local government issuers, public pension plans, and others whose credit stands behind municipal bonds, in addition to protecting investors and the public interest. The Committee will also review the MSRB's regulation of municipal advisors.

Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). The Committee will review the operations, initiatives and activities of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. The Committee will also monitor the PCAOB's exercise of its new authority to reg-

ister, inspect and discipline the auditors of broker-dealers, and the impact that this increased oversight may have on the PCAOB's operations. The Committee will also review the extent to which the PCAOB's new authority to share information with its foreign counterparts is sufficient to permit PCAOB inspectors to examine non-U.S. auditors.

Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). The Committee will review the initiatives of the Financial Accounting Standards Board and its responsiveness to all segments of the capital markets; the FASB's relationship with the SEC; and proposals to enhance Congressional oversight of the FASB. The Committee will monitor and review the FASB's specific projects, including its private company accounting standard project, to ensure that any revisions to accounting standards provide useful information to investors without disrupting the capital markets, capital formation or improperly burdening issuers and preparers.

Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The Committee will review the role of the Government Accounting Standards Board, which formulates accounting standards for the voluntary use of state and local governments that issue securities. The Committee will review the implementation of Section 978 of the Dodd-Frank Act, which directs the SEC to require the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) to collect fees from its members (broker-dealers and other securities professionals) and to remit such fees to the Financial Accounting Foundation, GASB's parent organization.

Convergence of International Accounting Standards. The Committee will review efforts by the SEC, the FASB, and the International Accounting Standards Board to achieve robust, uniform international accounting standards. The Committee will also monitor the SEC's plans to incorporate those standards as part of United States financial reporting requirements.

Securities Litigation. The Committee will examine the effectiveness of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 in protecting issuers from frivolous lawsuits while preserving the ability of investors to pursue legitimate actions.

Securities Arbitration. The Committee will examine developments in securities arbitration, including the impact of the arbitration-related provisions contained in section 921 of the Dodd-Frank Act, which provide the SEC with the authority to restrict mandatory pre-dispute arbitration, and the impact that the exercise of that authority could have on existing arbitration agreements and on issuers and investors generally.

Business Continuity Planning. The Committee will continue its oversight of the implementation of disaster preparedness and business continuity measures by the financial services industry, including equity and option markets and financial market utilities, and the regulatory oversight of those plans in order to minimize the disruptions to critical operations in the United States financial system resulting from natural disasters, terrorist attacks, or pandemics.

GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

Charter Restructuring for Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs). On September 7, 2008, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) placed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into conservatorship. To date, Fannie Mae has tapped $116.1 billion and Freddie Mac has used nearly $71.3 billion in taxpayer funds, although the GSEs have also paid the Treasury approximately $50 billion in dividends, making the GSE conservatorship the costliest of all the taxpayer bailouts initiated during the crisis. The cost of this bailout has raised fundamental questions about the viability of the GSEs' hybrid public-private organizational model, the market effects of their implicit-turned-explicit government guarantees, and the structure of the U.S. housing finance system. The Committee will examine proposals to modify or terminate Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's statutory charters, harmonize their business operations, and wind down any legacy business commitments. The Committee will also examine proposals that would allow the GSEs to repay taxpayers the funds they are owed.

Reducing GSE Market Share. The Committee will examine the overall size of the GSEs' footprint in various aspects of the housing finance system and ways to reduce or constrain their large market share and develop a vibrant, innovative and competitive private mortgage market. The Committee is interested in the extent to which access to affordable and safe housing finance options, including the 30-year fixed rate mortgage, can be preserved for a broad range of qualified borrowers, while preserving competition between lenders and protecting taxpayers. Areas of interest for the Committee will include the calculation of FHFA's House Price Index, the determination of the conforming loan limits in conventional and high-cost areas, the pricing of guarantee fees to reflect the risk of the mortgages purchased by the GSEs, and the size of the GSEs' retained investment portfolios.

Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). The Committee will monitor the activities and initiatives of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, which was established in 2008 to oversee Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks, and since September 2008 has served as Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's conservator. The Committee will pay particular attention to the FHFA's discharge of its duties as conservator to promote the long-term stability of the housing market and to ensure that taxpayer losses are minimized and private sector participation in the housing finance market is encouraged. The Committee will also consider the appropriate role, if any, for the Federal government in the secondary mortgage market, including the harmonization of existing GSE business operations and the development of new securitization platforms and alternative mortgage financing options.

Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) System. The Committee will monitor the capital requirements and financial stability of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, as well as the FHLB System's ability to fulfill its housing and community economic development mission and provide liquidity to the cooperative's member banks in a safe and sound manner. The Committee will pay particular attention to concerns regarding insufficient retained earnings and the

quality of private label securities portfolios maintained by individual Federal Home Loan Banks.

GSE Contracting with Non-Profits. To ensure that the GSEs are not engaging in risky activities that undermine the conservatorships, the Committee will examine the relationships that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac maintain with non-profit organizations that provide services, including housing counseling, to potential homeowners. The Committee will also examine whether the payments nonprofits receive for services provided to the GSEs are appropriate; whether GSE funds provided to non-profits are used for political activities; and whether adequate procedures are in place to protect the GSEs from fraud.

GSE Foreclosure and Loan Modification Protocols. The Committee will review Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's guidance to mortgage servicers and participation in government mortgage modification programs generally to ensure that undue political influence does not result in even greater losses to taxpayers from the GSE conservatorships.

HOUSING

Housing and Urban Development, Rural Housing Service, and the National Reinvestment Corporation. The Committee will review and hear testimony from the Administration on those housing agency budgets under its jurisdiction. Specifically, testimony is expected from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Rural Housing Service (RHS), and the National Reinvestment Corporation. HUD, which represents the most significant share of housing programs and budget authority, has experienced a steady increase in appropriations over the past decade, from $34.34 billion in fiscal year 2002 to $44.24 billion in fiscal year 2012. According to the Government Accountability Office, there are twenty different entities administering 160 housing programs. The Committee will review HUD's study entitled "Worst Case Housing Needs: A Report to Congress," which is designed to measure the scale of critical housing problems facing low-income and unassisted American renting households and the impact the recent recession and related joblessness has caused. Accordingly, the Committee will also review current HUD and RHS programs with the goal of identifying inefficient and duplicative programs for further review and potential streamlining.

Federal Housing Administration (FHA). Increased delinquencies and foreclosures across the nation have had a detrimental effect on the financial health of the Federal Housing Administration. The most recent actuarial report for fiscal year 2012, released in November, found that the FHA's insurance fund's economic value was negative $16.3 billion, which is the projected amount the FHA would lose if it stopped insuring new mortgages and covered its projected losses for the next 30 years. The FHA is thus vulnerable to further defaults. To cover these defaults, the FHA may resort to its "permanent indefinite authority" to draw funds directly from the U.S. Treasury to pay unexpected increases in insurance claims. Because the FHA guarantees 100 percent of the loan amount on the mortgages it insures and is ultimately backed by the Federal government, a large number of defaults could result in significant

losses to the FHA, and those losses may ultimately be borne by taxpayers. The Committee will examine the appropriate role for FHA in the mortgage finance system, how to encourage more robust private sector participation, and the ability of the FHA to continue to take steps to manage its mortgage portfolio and mitigate its risk.

Foreclosure Mitigation. The Committee will continue to monitor the performance of the Obama Administration's various foreclosure mitigation initiatives, which have fallen far short of their stated objectives and been the subject of repeated criticism by government watchdog agencies, including the Special Inspector General for TARP. The Committee's review will encompass the implementation of a 2011 consent order between Federal banking regulators and certain mortgage servicers and affiliates, which required these firms to identify and compensate homeowners who may have been harmed by irregularities in the foreclosure process.

Veterans' Housing. The Committee will continue to monitor and promote coordination between HUD and other agencies in their work to address veterans' housing issues. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) estimates that our nation has 22.2 million veterans; 2.7 million are elderly veterans and 4.3 million veteran homeowners have disabilities. Furthermore, HUD and VA estimate that there are between 76,329 and 144,842 homeless veterans in the U.S. Thus, the Committee will continue oversight of the HUD–Veterans' Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD–VASH) program that combines rental assistance with case management and clinical services provided by the VA to prevent homelessness amongst veterans. In addition, the Committee will also continue its focus on other matters, such as home modifications for disabled veterans, to ensure that all veterans have fair and equal housing opportunities.

Fair Housing. The Committee will continue to promote fair housing practices and ensure that the principles of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 are upheld and that consumers are not receiving adverse treatment based on their race, color, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or national origin in rentals, real estate sales, and lending practices. According to HUD, 27,092 housing discrimination complaints were reported in 2011. The Committee will continue monitoring whether unfair practices in housing occur and HUD's enforcement of the law.

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and Affordable Housing. The Committee will continue its effort to address HUD's largest rental assistance program and the government's role in the future of affordable rental housing. The Committee will review the rising costs of the Section 8 program, as funding for the Section 8 program continues to increase and consume the bulk of HUD's discretionary budget. Funding for the Section 8 program in fiscal year 2012 was $27.60 billion, representing a 62 percent share of the entire HUD FY 2012 budget. The Committee will review whether the rental assistance program met its program objectives in a manner that leverages taxpayer investments in affordable housing without duplicating successful private-sector initiatives.

Rural Housing Service (RHS). The Committee will review the mission, organization and operations of the Rural Housing Service, a Federal agency which provides affordable housing for low-to-mod-

erate income rural families. Eligible communities are determined after each decennial census. According to the 2010 census findings, 933 communities, including 486 communities grandfathered between 10 and 29 years ago, will no longer be eligible for housing programs under the RHS after March 27, 2013. The Committee will review the 2010 census findings to ascertain their impact on meeting rural housing needs.

Reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). As the Committee considers the statutory authorization for NAHASDA, which expires on October 1, 2013, the Committee will examine the need for better infrastructure and services, accountability for the use of the program, and HUD's administration of NAHASDA funds. The fiscal year 2012 budget included $650 million for the program. As of January 1, 2013, the program had a $979.7 million obligated unexpended balance. The Committee also will review the effectiveness of NAHASDA, the reasons for the backlog of unspent funds, and whether the program is meeting its objectives.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The Community Development Block Grant program provides Federal funds to cities and localities to help them address housing and community development. The CDBG program operates like a revenue sharing program for the states and localities. CDBG funds are allocated by a formula through which 70 percent of the funds are directed to entitlement communities, which are central cities of metropolitan areas, cities with populations of at least 50,000, and urban counties. The remaining 30 percent is directed to states for use in small, non-entitlement communities. The fiscal year 2012 budget included $3.308 billion for the program. The Committee will consider ways to make the CDBG program more effective and targeted towards extremely low-income communities. In addition, the Committee will review the eligible activities and oversight and administration of the program with the aim of ensuring that funds are used in an appropriate manner.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). The Committee will continue to monitor the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, which provides grants to states and localities to fund affordable housing projects. States and localities can use HOME funds to finance home purchases and build or rehabilitate housing, which can then be rented or sold. In the 112th Congress, the Committee conducted oversight hearings on the efficacy of the HOME program and whether its objectives were being met.

INSURANCE

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Committee will monitor the implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (P.L. 112–141), paying particular attention to the reforms that encourage more private sector participation in the flood insurance market. The Committee will also review and consider further reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program with the goal of ending taxpayer bailouts of the program and possibly transitioning to a private, innovative, competitive and sustainable flood insurance market. Since 2006, the GAO has designated the NFIP as a high-risk program because of its potential

to incur billions in dollars in losses and because the program faces serious financial, structural, and managerial challenges. Due to extraordinary losses incurred following the hurricanes in 2005 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012, the program carries a debt of well over $20 billion as of January 1, 2013.

Terrorism Risk Insurance Program. The Committee will monitor the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, which expires on December 31, 2014, for its ongoing impact on economic development and the private terrorism insurance marketplace. The Committee will examine the private sector's capacity to assess and price for terrorism risk and consider whether to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program as well as proposals that would reduce the potential Federal exposure and participation in the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program.

Federal Insurance Office (FIO). The Committee will monitor the Federal Insurance Office, which was created by the Dodd-Frank Act to provide the Federal government with information and expertise in insurance matters. The FIO has repeatedly missed multiple statutory deadlines imposed by the Dodd-Frank Act for reports to Congress on (1) the insurance industry, in general; (2) the breadth and scope of the global reinsurance market; (3) the ability of state regulators to access reinsurance information; and (4) recommendations to modernize and improve the system of insurance regulation in the United States. The Committee urges the FIO to submit these long overdue reports without further delay. The Committee will work to ensure that the FIO is focused on developing expertise on insurance matters and does not impose unwarranted or excessive data collection burdens on the insurance sector or on small insurers in particular. The Committee will also monitor implementation of the FIO's authority to coordinate policy and represent the U.S. on international insurance issues, paying particular attention to FIO's role in addressing a number of substantive and procedural concerns surrounding the International Association of Insurance Supervisors' methodology for designating global systemically important insurers.

Impact of Dodd-Frank Act Implementation on the Insurance Sector. The Committee will monitor implementation of various provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act for their potential impact on the insurance sector including but not limited to the FSOC, the Orderly Liquidation Authority, the OFR, and the CFPB, as well as new restrictions on proprietary trading and investments (Volcker Rule) and revised capital standards for bank and thrift holding companies (the Collins Amendment) to ensure that new regulations do not impose unwarranted or excessive burdens on the insurance sector that might result in higher costs for individuals or businesses that purchase insurance products and services or result in unintended consequences for U.S. economic competitiveness and job creation.

MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE

The Economy and Jobs. In light of efforts to stimulate the economy through increased Federal spending and accommodative Federal Reserve policies, the Committee will examine the extent to which current government policies may have blurred the line be-

tween monetary and fiscal policy. The Committee will examine the effectiveness and consequences of the extraordinary measures undertaken by the Federal Reserve on economic growth and employment and also will examine the effects of mounting Federal debt and annual Federal budget deficits on economic recovery and the country's long-term economic health.

Conduct of Monetary Policy by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. The Committee will thoroughly examine the process by which the Federal Reserve sets and executes its monetary policy goals, while respecting the independence of the Federal Reserve's decision-making. The Committee will review the recent history of monetary policy decisions and examine the Federal Reserve's plan for removing excess liquidity from the economy after recovery is firmly established to prevent inflation. The Committee will examine the quality of economic data the Federal Reserve uses to make its decisions, the accuracy and utility of the Federal Reserve's econometric models, and the effect of the Federal Reserve's legislative mandates on its decisions. The Committee seeks to ensure that the Federal Reserve's monetary policy decisions are based on the best data and models, and that it successfully executes open market operations to reach its goals. As part of this review, the Committee will hold hearings to receive the semi-annual reports on the conduct of monetary policy and the state of the economy from the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. The Committee will examine the extent to which Federal Reserve policy is conducted in a manner that effectively promotes its statutory mandate to pursue maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates, taking into account long- and short-term effects. This will include evaluating the effectiveness and consequences of the extraordinary measures undertaken by the Federal Reserve on economic growth and employment.

General Oversight of the Federal Reserve System. The Committee will conduct oversight of the operations of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and the Federal Reserve System, including management structure, organizational changes mandated by the Dodd-Frank Act, and the role of the Federal Reserve in the supervision of systemically significant banks and non-bank financial institutions. As part of this review, the Committee will hold statutorily required semi-annual hearings to receive testimony from the Federal Reserve's Vice Chairman for Supervision, a position created by Section 1108 of the Dodd-Frank Act that the Obama Administration has not yet filled.

Defense Production Act. The Committee will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Defense Production Act, the statutory authorization for which expires in 2014, and its individual authorities in promoting national security and recovery from natural disasters.

Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). The Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007, which reformed the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. The Committee will seek to ensure that CFIUS fulfills its statutory mandate to identify and address those foreign investments that pose legitimate threats to national security. The Committee will also monitor the extent to which the United States maintains a pol-

icy of openness toward foreign investment, so that investments that pose no threat to national security are able to proceed expeditiously while those that pose a threat are either remediated or rejected.

Coins and Currency. The Committee will conduct oversight of the printing and minting of U.S. currency and coins, and of the operation of programs administered by the U.S. Mint for producing congressionally authorized commemorative coins, bullion coins for investors, and Congressional gold medals. The Committee also will examine the Federal Reserve's methods for circulating and re-circulating coins and currency, proposals to reduce the cost of minting coins, and efforts to make currency more accessible to the visually impaired. The Committee will continue its review of efforts to detect and combat the counterfeiting of U.S. coins and currency in the United States and abroad, and will examine the counterfeiting of rare or investment-grade coins, U.S.-made and otherwise.

Economic Sanctions. The Committee will monitor the implementation of sanctions against rogue nations, with particular attention to the enhanced sanctions against Iran and Syria passed during the 112th Congress. Particular focus will be placed on whether financial services-related aspects of these laws have been executed in accordance with congressional intent, and what the impact of such policies has been. This review will encompass the activities of the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control in administering the economic sanctions regime.

Job Creation and U.S. Competitiveness. The Committee will examine United States international monetary and trade policies with an eye toward ensuring that those policies support the ability of U.S. companies to be competitive in the international marketplace, thereby promoting domestic job creation and economic opportunity, and advancing an open rules-based global trading system.

Annual Report and Testimony by the Secretary of the Treasury on International Monetary Fund Reform and the State of the International Financial System. The Committee will review and assess the statutorily required annual report to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury on the state of the international financial system and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Section 613 of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (P.L. 105–277) requires the Secretary to report on (1) progress made in reforming the IMF; (2) the status of efforts to reform the international financial system; (3) compliance by borrower countries with the terms and conditions of IMF assistance; and (4) the status of implementation of anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing standards by the IMF, the multilateral development banks, and other multilateral financial policymaking bodies.

International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Committee will consider the policies of the International Monetary Fund to ensure effective use of resources and appropriate alignment with U.S. interests in promoting economic growth and stability. The Committee will also review any Administration request that the U.S. transfer funds at the IMF from the New Arrangements to Borrow to the general quota fund. During review of any such request, the Committee will assess the purpose of the transfer and potential risks or benefits the transfer might pose as well as possible consequences to the sta-

bility of the international financial system and U.S. economic interests if the pending quota package is not approved. In examining such authorization requests, the Committee will review any reforms the IMF has agreed to make concurrent with the transfer.

U.S. Oversight over the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Possible U.S. Contributions. The Committee will consider any Administration request that the U.S. contribute to the replenishment of the concessional lending windows at the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the Asian Development Bank, which provide grants and below market-rate financing to the world's poorest nations. In considering any such request, the Committee will assess the effectiveness of these lending facilities in achieving economic development and promoting global economic stability. In addition, the Committee will consider the policies of the MDBs to ensure effective use of resources and proper alignment with U.S. interests in promoting economic growth and stability.

Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank). The Export-Import Bank is chartered by Congress to contribute to the employment of U.S. workers through financing exports of U.S. manufactured goods and services. The charter under which the Ex-Im Bank operates expires September 30, 2014, and the Committee will therefore consider the Bank's reauthorization. The Ex-Im Bank has been a self-sustaining agency funded by the income it receives through its financing programs. The Committee will examine the Ex-Im Bank's policies and programs to ensure the continuing fiscal soundness of the Bank. The Committee will also consider how the Bank can ensure it is not crowding out private sector involvement in export financing, especially financing for public companies, but will also review whether the current authorization is sufficient to support the global competitiveness of U.S. companies, small and large, particularly given the continuing difficulty companies have in accessing credit. Also, the Committee will continue to review the implementation of the Congressional mandates established in the Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2012.

World Bank Safeguards Review. The Committee will continue to monitor the World Bank's ongoing review and update of its safeguard policies to ensure that the Bank's safeguards and related standards reflect best practices as well as international standards and norms, preserve the Bank's responsibility to ensure project-program compliance, and continue to promote sustainable economic growth and social cohesion.

International Trade. The Committee recognizes that American jobs are supported by U.S. exports, U.S. companies operating abroad, and foreign firms operating in the United States. The Committee will oversee existing trade programs and consider policies within the Committee's jurisdiction to promote U.S. international trade so that American companies are globally competitive. The Committee will oversee the progress of the National Export Initiative and other Administration proposals to increase U.S. exports and create jobs in the United States. The Committee will remain active in the oversight of trade negotiations as they relate to the global competitiveness of the American financial services sector, to ensure such agreements improve access to foreign markets, in-

crease trade opportunities for American businesses, and create jobs domestically.

Market Access. The Committee will assess opportunities to expand market access for U.S. companies and the financial services sector, and to promote policies that can bring about reciprocal market access with developing nations that currently limit or prevent U.S. firms from entering and operating within their national borders. In particular, the Committee will examine market access issues with regard to nations with which the U.S. has entered into free trade agreements.

China. The Committee will monitor the implications of China's economic growth and policies on the U.S. and global economy. As China's economy and global reach expand, the degree to which it adopts responsible policies and practices that do not distort markets or unfairly disadvantage its trading partners will be examined.

Exchange Rates. The Committee will review and assess the semiannual report to Congress from the Secretary of the Treasury on International Economic and Exchange Rate Policies pursuant to the Omnibus Trade Act of 1988.

Global Capital Flows. The Committee will monitor the flow of capital globally. The buildup of large currency reserves in certain nations can lead to imbalances in capital allocations and asset bubbles that threaten global economic stability. The Committee will assess the implications of the investment of these reserves on the world economy.

Eurozone Distress. The Committee will monitor the economic distress in the Eurozone, which stems from unsustainable levels of sovereign debt, problems in the banking sector and slow growth in Europe. Because the European Union (EU) is a major trading and investment partner of the U.S. and many other countries, the EU's fiscal health has implications beyond the continent's borders. Consequently, the Committee will examine actions taken by the IMF, the EU and other nations to address the sovereign debt issues in the Eurozone. The Committee will also explore how best to protect U.S. interests while also ensuring that taxpayer dollars are not used to bail out foreign governments, thereby further enabling reckless fiscal policies.

Haiti. Just as the United States economy is burdened by excessive debt from current and previous Administrations, Haiti is also burdened with excessive amounts of debt. Despite extensive U.S. and multilateral debt relief, Haiti's debt to non-Paris Club members, including Venezuela and China, has sharply increased in recent years, leading the IMF to rate Haiti's risk of debt distress as high. This debt burden exacerbates one of the worst cases of human misery in the hemisphere. The Committee will continue to closely monitor the efficacy of U.S. and multilateral institution efforts to improve the human condition in Haiti, including the impact of the Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) annual transfers to the Haiti grant facility and the role of the IDB in its privileged position as a long-term development partner in Haiti.

Extractive Industries and Conflict Materials. The Committee will monitor the implementation of provisions in title XV of the Dodd-Frank Act imposing new disclosure requirements relating to so-

called conflict minerals and extractive industries, to ensure that the provisions do not cause undue harm to intended beneficiaries. The Committee will also work to ensure that unnecessary compliance burdens for U.S. firms are minimized.

CLAUSE 2(d)(1)(F) OF RULE X OF THE HOUSE ON PROPOSED CUTS

Clause 2(d)(1)(F) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 112th Congress requires each standing committee to include in its oversight plan proposals to cut or eliminate programs, including mandatory spending programs, that are inefficient, duplicative, outdated, or more appropriately administered by State or local governments.

The unsustainable Federal deficit caused by unchecked spending remains the most daunting challenge facing the U.S. economy. The deficit has created uncertainty among families, investors, and small business owners who do not know whether the value of saving and investment undertaken today will be eroded through inflation and higher taxes in the years ahead resulting from ever-increasing Federal deficits. According to the Congressional Budget Office's most recent budget estimate, the fiscal 2013 Federal deficit is projected to be $845 billion and, absent a change in current policy, Federal debt held by the public will reach 76 percent of GDP by the end of this fiscal year, the largest percentage since 1950. Plainly, the nation's current fiscal path is unsustainable. Only by making the difficult choices that are necessary to put the nation's fiscal house in order can the 113th Congress lay the groundwork for ensuring America's prosperity for future generations.

The following are Federal programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services that will be reviewed for possible cuts, elimination, or consolidation into other Federal programs.

Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). The Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act is composed of a (1) block grant program and (2) loan guarantee program. Under the block grant program, funds are made available under a formula to Federally-recognized Native American tribal governments for housing and infrastructure development. The FY 2012 funding for the NAHASDA block grant program was $650 million. However, the obligated unexpended balance, meaning the portion of the funds disbursed by HUD to the grantee but not yet spent by that grantee, totals approximately $979.7 million, representing significantly more than the annual appropriation. The Committee will review the causes and sources of the obligated unexpended balance and explore the possibility of adjusting the program to make it more efficient, providing needed housing infrastructure development to those Native American communities that exhibit the capacity and need to utilize such funds.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The Community Development Block Grant program provides Federal funds to cities and localities to help them address housing and community development. The CDBG program operates like a revenue sharing program for the states and localities. CDBG funds are allocated by a formula through which 70 percent of the funds are directed to entitlement communities, which are central cities of metropolitan

areas, cities with populations of at least 50,000, and urban counties. The remaining 30 percent is directed to states for use in small, non-entitlement communities. The fiscal year 2012 budget included $3.308 billion for the program. The Committee will consider changes in the current distribution of CDBG formula funds to target extremely low-income communities. In addition, the Committee will review the eligible activities and oversight and administration of the program with the aim of ensuring that funds are used in an appropriate manner and with the express purpose of making the program more cost-effective.

Making Home Affordable Programs. On February 18, 2009, President Obama announced a three-part Making Home Affordable Program, with the stated goal of helping 9 million borrowers at risk of foreclosure or seeking to refinance high-cost mortgages. The plan included (1) a refinancing program for mortgages owned by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac (known as the Home Affordable Refinance plan); (2) a $75 billion loan modification program (known as the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP)); and (3) a commitment of $200 billion to purchase Fannie and Freddie preferred stock. Funding for the modification plan is derived from the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) and the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs), and the GSE preferred stock purchases drew from funds authorized by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) (P.L. 110–289). HAMP has not met the goals set for it, and has failed to help a sufficient number of distressed homeowners to justify the program's cost. Accordingly, the Committee recommends rescinding unspent and unobligated balances currently committed to these programs.

Choice Neighborhoods. The Choice Neighborhoods Program was established to transform, rehabilitate and replace both public and HUD-assisted housing units. Suggested as a replacement for the inefficient and often ineffective HOPE VI program, the Obama Administration created this new Federal program to provide additional grants to local governments, assisted housing owners, community development corporations, and non-profit entities. The Committee is concerned that this new government program will suffer the same problems as the HOPE VI program, which has millions of dollars in unexpended balances. Given that this program was funded at $120 million for FY 2012 and has yet to be authorized, the Committee recommends rescinding unspent and unobligated balances currently committed to this program.

FHA Short Refinance Program. On March 26, 2010, the Obama Administration announced a new FHA Short Refinance Program for underwater homeowners. Treasury indicated that the program would be funded with $8 billion in TARP funds that had originally been set aside for HAMP. The program was implemented on September 7, 2010, and will continue until December 31, 2014. Over the course of two and half years, FHA has helped only 1,300 borrowers through this program. Rather than diverting scarce resources for another ineffective foreclosure mitigation program, the Committee recommends that the program be discontinued.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

OVERSIGHT PLAN

ADOPTED JANUARY 15, 2013

1. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the requirements of House Rule X(2)(d)(1), the Committee on Foreign Affairs ("the Committee") has adopted an oversight plan for the 113th Congress which will be shared with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration. This plan summarizes the Committee's oversight priorities for the next two years, subject to the understanding that new developments will undoubtedly affect priorities and workflow in the months ahead.

Congressional oversight remains one of the key responsibilities of the legislative branch. Committee Rule 15 requires each Subcommittee to hold regular oversight hearings. Oversight activities will thus be coordinated between the Committee and the Subcommittees, in order to facilitate comprehensive and strategic oversight of the programs and agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction.

Oversight activities may include hearings, briefings, investigations, Member or staff-level meetings, correspondence, fact-finding travel, reports, and public statements. They may also include effective use and review of reports by the Government Accountability Office and by statutory Inspectors General, as well as Congressional Notifications submitted by executive branch agencies. The Committee will also consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share jurisdiction.

The Committee's oversight activities will emphasize:

- effectiveness of U.S. foreign policy;
- effective implementation of U.S. law;
- the review of agencies and programs operating under permanent statutory authority;
- the elimination of programs and expenditures that are inefficient, duplicative, or outdated; and
- institutional reform, efficiency, and fiscal discipline.

2. PRIORITY OVERSIGHT MATTERS

a. Iran: The Committee will continue to closely review U.S. policy to address the comprehensive threat posed by Iran to the United States and to its interests and allies, including, but not limited to: Iran's ongoing efforts to develop and acquire nuclear weapons capabilities, its unconventional weapons and ballistic missile development, its state sponsorship of terrorism, and its efforts to exert and

expand its destabilizing influence and operational capabilities in the Middle East, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Western Hemisphere. The Committee will also review political and economic support given Iran by other countries that is counter to U.S. interests. Of particular focus will be U.S. efforts to fully implement all sanctions with respect to Iran under U.S. law—including human rights sanctions—as well as the status and enforcement of multilateral sanctions against Iran.

b. Afghanistan: The Committee will comprehensively review U.S. policy toward Afghanistan, including the development and implementation of the Strategic Partnership Agreement Between the United States and Afghanistan, the effectiveness of U.S. assistance programs, the broader political-military and associated counterinsurgency and counterterrorism strategies, and the full range of policies related to the 2014 transition, including programs and budgeting processes.

c. Pakistan: The Committee will review all elements of U.S. policy toward Pakistan, including efforts to eliminate safe havens for violent extremists and establish a stable, democratic country. This review will encompass all aspects of aid to Pakistan, both civilian and security assistance, in order to assess the extent to which such programs effectively advance U.S. national interests. The Committee will also conduct ongoing oversight of matters relating to Pakistan's nuclear program, including issues relating to nonproliferation, such as the legacy of the A.Q. Khan network.

d. Middle East and North Africa: The Committee will carefully review U.S. policy toward the Middle East and North Africa, to include: the ongoing conflict in Syria and the related threat posed by chemical weapons; the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the overall status of the Middle East peace process; the threat posed to the U.S. and its allies by terrorist groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and al-Qaeda and al-Qaeda affiliates; the broader transitions and reform efforts taking place within the region inclusive of Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia, Libya, Bahrain, Morocco, Jordan and others; and United States policies, programs, authorities and funding to effectively address these challenges. The Committee will conduct oversight to assure Israel's "qualitative military edge."

e. North Korea: The Committee will review the nuclear and missile threat posed by North Korea, its proliferation activities and weapon sales involving rogue regimes, its illicit activities, continuing human rights violations, and U.S. efforts to assist North Korean refugees. The Committee will review U.S. diplomatic efforts and will examine next steps in U.S. policy to address the North Korean threat.

f. International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime: The Committee will examine the current status of al-Qaeda and its affiliates, with a specific focus on recruitment efforts, evolving safe havens, and efforts to obtain WMD. The Committee will conduct oversight of the State Department's various counterterrorism programs. The Committee will also examine the growing links between organized crime, illicit drugs, and global terrorism. Other transnational criminal issues of interest include maritime piracy, human, arms and wildlife trafficking, money laundering and intellectual property piracy issues.

g. State Department Oversight, Authorization, and Reform: The Committee will monitor and examine the operations, budget, programs, planning, personnel, building, and security policies of the Department of State, with an eye toward authorization and reform legislation for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 that promotes U.S. national interests in a cost-effective and accountable manner. Special emphasis will be placed on the effective implementation of the recommendations of the Accountability Review Board, which was formed following the terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012. In addition to hearings with the Secretary of State and other Administration officials regarding their budget proposals for the upcoming year, such efforts may include: review of Foreign Service pay, incentive, and promotion policies; consideration of reforms to Executive Branch reporting requirements; and an examination of consular processes, including passport and visa security issues.

h. Asia-Pacific Region: The Committee will review the U.S.'s significant political, economic, and security interests in the Asia-Pacific, including East and Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Pacific Islands. The Committee will conduct oversight of U.S. relations with the Asia-Pacific, including foreign policy, foreign assistance funding, security cooperation, territorial disputes, and trade relations. The Committee will examine the State Department's participation in multilateral organizations such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and the East Asia Summit, and closely monitor the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations. The Committee will monitor the needs of Taiwan for defensive weapons systems as provided for in the Taiwan Relations Act.

i. U.S. International Broadcasting: The Committee will actively monitor and review the operations and organization of the Broadcasting Board of Governors and the full range of U.S. government-supported, civilian international broadcasting to ensure the most robust and effective operation possible.

j. China: The Committee will examine China's role in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Particular focus will be placed on China's assertiveness in territorial disputes, rapid military modernization, and human rights abuses. The Committee will also examine China's role in the global economy, including unfair trade policies that threaten American jobs, such as indigenous innovation and theft of intellectual property. The Committee will review China's support for despotic regimes in North Korea, Iran, and Syria, which has prevented meaningful sanctions from being implemented. The Committee will monitor the State Department's participation in the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue and other related bilateral mechanisms. The Committee will investigate China's increasing use of cyber espionage to affect foreign trade, and other policy outcomes.

k. Economic Policy and Trade: The Committee will take a vigorous role in overseeing international economic policy, including U.S. leadership in trade, finance, development, and energy policy, and how such leadership may promote economic prosperity and national security. This will include, but is not limited to, oversight of, and potential legislation relating to, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and Export Administration Act.

l. Export Control Reform: The Committee will oversee proposed Executive Branch reforms of U.S. strategic export controls. In particular, the Committee will assess the extent to which proposed changes to the U.S. Munitions and Commerce Control Lists effectively safeguard critical technologies and national security, while supporting the defense industrial base and advancing U.S. commercial interests. The Committee will consider legislation on these and related matters as may be necessary and appropriate.

m. U.S. Nonproliferation Policy. The Committee will examine the effectiveness of U.S. nonproliferation policy and the international nonproliferation regime in preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction. The Committee will address opportunities to strengthen existing nonproliferation organizations, especially the International Atomic Energy Agency, increase cooperation with other countries, and enhance international nonproliferation agreements and mechanisms. Prominent issues will include the global expansion of civil nuclear power and the potential spread of technology, equipment and material useful in the development of nuclear weapons capabilities. The Committee will closely examine proposed and existing bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements with other countries, including their potential to promote U.S. nonproliferation objectives.

n. Africa. The Committee will review political, economic and security developments on the African continent. Key issues will include efforts to eliminate safe havens for violent extremists, economic development—including implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act—effective use of aid, human rights, and responsible energy development. Particular attention is to be paid to the developments in Mali, Nigeria, Sudan and South Sudan, the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa.

o. Western Hemisphere: The Committee will conduct oversight regarding the content and effectiveness of U.S. political, military, and economic policy toward the countries of the Western Hemisphere. Special emphasis will be placed on the prospects for expanding trade, especially with Canada and Mexico, as well as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and regional energy developments. The Committee will address continuing threats from narco-trafficking, organized crime, and terrorist organizations, including the implications of Iran's increasing presence and influence. The Committee will examine the stability of, and cooperation between, the regimes in Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Ecuador and Cuba.

p. Security Assistance and Arms Transfer Policy: The Committee will assess the effectiveness of FAA and AECA-authorized security assistance programs in advancing U.S. national interests. In addition, the Committee will review those security cooperation programs funded by the Department of Defense but which require concurrence of the Secretary of State, or otherwise give rise to this Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee will also review law and policy relating to U.S. arms transfers and related end-use monitoring, as well as various counterterrorism tools that impact foreign policy. The Committee will also continue to carefully review proposed arms sales and transfers proposed by the Administration to make sure they comport with U.S. foreign and national security policy, as well as benefit the legitimate defense needs of the recipi-

ent countries, and the process by which the Administration consults with the Committee and the Congress on such sales to ensure proper oversight.

q. Russia: The Committee will address the impact of Russia's foreign policy on U.S. political, economic, and other interests in key countries and regions, with a focus on identifying significant areas of competition and potential cooperation. Of note is the Administration's announced intention to negotiate new agreements with Russia on limiting strategic forces and ballistic missile defense, including the U.S. system scheduled for deployment in Europe. Russia's adherence to the rules of the World Trade Organization and the impact on U.S. exports will be addressed. The Committee will also review how Russia's domestic policies impact the U.S., and will consider the country's respect for human rights, democratic governance, and rule of law.

r. Europe/Eurasia: The Committee will review U.S. relations with European countries, with an emphasis on the European Union and NATO, including potential membership of the Western Balkan nations in those institutions. Key issues will include removal of barriers to trade, including a potential Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Area, the deployment of a regional ballistic missile defense system, the impact of the European financial crisis, diversification of energy sources, and Turkey's new foreign policy orientation and its domestic political evolution, among others. The Committee will also conduct oversight of U.S. policy in Central Asia, including as it relates to the 2014 transition in Afghanistan.

s. Foreign Assistance: The Committee will review the underlying authorities for U.S. foreign assistance with an eye towards reducing duplication, and increasing transparency and effectiveness. It will also review issues related to the subsequent implementation of U.S. foreign assistance programs and projects, including the role of U.S. missions and embassies. In addition, the Committee will review issues related to coordination between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other U.S. Government agencies and departments that are involved in carrying out U.S. foreign assistance. Among a broad range of issues, the Committee will review U.S. foreign assistance initiatives aimed at addressing global health challenges, including maternal health and child survival issues, and the implementation of the Lantos-Hyde United States Global Leadership against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008. Assistance provided through the Millennium Challenge Corporation will also receive close scrutiny.

t. Human Rights and Democracy: The Committee will examine U.S. activities to promote democracy and protect human rights around the world. The Committee will critically assess U.S. involvement with multilateral human rights mechanisms, to ensure that U.S. diplomacy serves to promote fundamental human rights and freedoms.

u. United Nations and International Organizations: The Committee will closely review all aspects of U.S. funding of, and participation in, international organizations. Close attention will be paid to whether such funding and participation is advancing U.S. interests and values, protecting the integrity of U.S. taxpayer dollars, and leading to increased transparency, accountability, and reform

of those organizations. The Committee will closely monitor the work of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, particularly efforts to improve performance, enhance accountability, and combat waste, fraud and abuse in United Nations Peacekeeping Missions.

3. GENERAL REVIEW OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

The Committee intends to exercise its oversight jurisdiction concerning the relations of the United States with foreign nations to the fullest extent allowed by House Rule X(1)(i). This means taking cognizance of events and circumstances in every region of the world outside of U.S. national borders, as well as U.S. foreign policy responses thereto, as developments warrant. According to Committee Rules, those responsibilities are divided among the Full Committee, its one functional subcommittee, and its five regional subcommittees, as follows:

Full Committee. The full Committee is responsible for oversight and legislation relating to: foreign assistance (including development assistance, Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Millennium Challenge Account, HIV/AIDS in foreign countries, security assistance, and Public Law 480 programs abroad); national security developments affecting foreign policy; strategic planning and agreements; war powers, treaties, executive agreements, and the deployment and use of United States Armed Forces; peacekeeping, peace enforcement, and enforcement of United Nations or other international sanctions; arms control and disarmament issues; the United States Agency for International Development; activities and policies of the State, Commerce, and Defense Departments and other agencies related to the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act, including export and licensing policy for munitions items and technology and dual-use equipment and technology; international law; promotion of democracy; international law enforcement issues, including narcotics control programs and activities; Broadcasting Board of Governors; embassy security; international broadcasting; public diplomacy, including international communication and information policy, and international education and exchange programs; and all other matters not specifically assigned to a subcommittee. The full Committee will have jurisdiction over legislation with respect to the administration of the Export Administration Act, including the export and licensing of dual-use equipment and technology and other matters related to international economic policy and trade not otherwise assigned to a subcommittee, and with respect to the United Nations, its affiliated agencies, and other international organizations, including assessed and voluntary contributions to such organizations. The full Committee may conduct oversight and investigations with respect to any matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee as defined in the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade. This subcommittee has oversight and legislative responsibilities over the United States' efforts to manage and coordinate international programs to combat terrorism as coordinated by the Department of State and other agencies, and efforts to bring international terrorists to justice. With the concurrence of the Chairman

of the full Committee, it has oversight of, and legislation pertaining to, nonproliferation matters involving nuclear, chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction, except for legislation involving the Foreign Assistance Act, the Arms Export Control Act, the Export Administration Act, and sanctions laws pertaining to individual countries and the provision of foreign assistance (which is reserved to the full Committee). It has oversight of matters relating to international economic and trade policy; commerce with foreign countries; international investment policy; the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Agency; commodity agreements; and special oversight of international financial and monetary institutions; the Export-Import Bank, and customs. With the concurrence of the Chairman of the full Committee, it also has legislative jurisdiction over measures related to export promotion and measures related to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Agency.

Regional Subcommittees. The five subcommittees with regional jurisdiction are:

- The Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations
- The Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific
- The Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats
- The Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa
- The Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere

As detailed below, two of the regional subcommittees also have functional jurisdiction. Each of the regional subcommittees has jurisdiction over the following within their respective regions:

(1) Matters affecting the political relations between the United States and other countries and regions, including resolutions or other legislative measures directed to such relations.

(2) Legislation with respect to disaster assistance outside the Foreign Assistance Act, boundary issues, and international claims.

(3) Legislation with respect to region- or country-specific loans or other financial relations outside the Foreign Assistance Act.

(4) Legislation and oversight regarding human rights practices in particular countries.

(5) Oversight of regional lending institutions.

(6) Oversight of matters related to the regional activities of the United Nations, of its affiliated agencies, and of other multilateral institutions.

(7) Identification and development of options for meeting future problems and issues relating to U.S. interests in the region.

(8) Oversight of base rights and other facilities access agreements and regional security pacts.

(9) Concurrent oversight jurisdiction with respect to matters assigned to the functional subcommittees insofar as they may affect the region.

(10) Oversight of foreign assistance activities affecting the region, with the concurrence of the Chairman of the full Committee.

(11) Such other matters as the Chairman of the full Committee may determine.

The Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations. In addition to its regional jurisdiction, this subcommittee has oversight of:

international health issues, including transboundary infectious diseases, maternal health and child survival, and programs related to the global ability to address health issues; population issues; the United Nations and its affiliated agencies (excluding peacekeeping and enforcement of United Nations or other international sanctions); international cultural and educational programs and exchanges; the American Red Cross; and the Peace Corps. In addition, it has legislative and oversight jurisdiction pertaining to: implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; other matters relating to internationally-recognized human rights, including legislation aimed at the promotion of human rights and democracy generally; and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, and related issues.

The Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats. In addition to its regional jurisdiction, with the concurrence of the Chairman of the full Committee, this subcommittee has oversight jurisdiction related to emerging foreign threats to the national security and interests of the United States.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 24, 2013.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration, Washington, DC.

Hon. DARRELL E. ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MILLER AND CHAIRMAN ISSA: Pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I am submitting the Committee on Homeland Security's Oversight Plan for the 113th Congress. The Oversight Plan was adopted by the Committee on Homeland Security in open session on January 23, 2013, without amendment, by unanimous consent, a quorum being present.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

Clause 2(d), Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 113th Congress requires each standing Committee to adopt an oversight plan for the two-year period of the Congress and to submit the plan to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and House Administration not later than February 15th of the first session of the Congress.

This is the oversight plan for the Committee on Homeland Security for the 113th Congress. It includes the areas in which the Committee expects to conduct oversight during the 113th Congress, but does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters as needs arise. The Full Committee will examine the following four key priorities, among other issues.

PREVENTING A TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE HOMELAND

Our enemies continuously plot to harm Americans. As we saw warning signs prior to the 9/11 attacks including the bombings of our embassies in Africa and attack on the USS Cole, we are experiencing events today, which should cause concern. The Arab spring has brought some welcome changes to the Middle East. However, the region has also witnessed some dangerous warning signs, such as the assassination of our US Ambassador in Benghazi along with three other Americans. We now see radical and dangerous groups achieving political prominence in the Middle East. This is a dangerous time for our nation and we cannot become complacent about the threats against us.

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine the persisting threats to Americans and American interests from Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and new and emerging threats such as Iran and Hezbollah in the Western hemisphere. The Committee will assess the various vulnerabilities of our nation's systems and mechanisms that dangerous people and entities aspire to exploit, such as our aviation and other transit systems, our cyber networks, and critical infrastructure control systems. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has the responsibility to protect Americans from these dangers and the Committee intends to examine the Department's relevant strategies and capabilities.

The Committee will also continue to evaluate the Obama Administration's policy concerning the Detention Center at the US Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. This oversight will include a review of the Secretary of Homeland Security's role as a member of the President's Guantanamo Detention Task Force, as outlined in Executive Order 13492. Furthermore, the examination will include a review of the potential risk of holding high-value detainees, such as Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other co-conspirators of the attacks of September 11th on domestic soil; the risk of inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information during the trial; and the rec-

ommendations delivered by the Department as part of the Guantanamo Review Task Force.

SECURING OUR BORDERS

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will continue to examine the Department's efforts to secure land and maritime borders of the United States. The Committee will assess programs and technologies used to secure U.S. land borders on the north and the south, as well as the Caribbean region. The Committee will also examine how the Department is leveraging defense technologies to effectively secure the borders and how best to utilize equipment coming re-deployed from Iraq and Afghanistan. The Committee will continue to monitor the threat of spill-over violence stemming from the rise of drug cartels and the violent conflict throughout Mexico.

PROTECTING AGAINST CYBER ATTACKS

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine the Department's role in hardening our national critical infrastructure against cyber attacks by fortifying Federal and civilian networks and collaborating with the private sector to reduce vulnerabilities. The Committee will review the integration of the various cyber missions carried out across the Federal government and will monitor the Department's role in fulfilling its goals in order to prevent a catastrophic cyber attack. The Committee will ensure that the Department facilitates the improved security of our Nation's critical infrastructure while earning and building on the trust of the owners and operators of that infrastructure.

MANAGING DHS WITH A BUSINESS-MODEL APPROACH

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will oversee the Department of Homeland Security's management and operations to ensure that it is functioning in the most efficient manner possible and accountable to the American people. The Committee will work to identify potential opportunities to leverage proven private sector best practices, find efficiencies that will contribute to the Department's ability to meet its vital missions, and identify areas for cost savings. The Committee intends to conduct oversight and ensure better business practices in areas, such as acquisition, financial management, information technology, and employee morale.

Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence

COUNTERTERRORISM

The security of the American homeland is linked to international security as vulnerabilities in one part of the world can quickly become security threats in another. During the 113th Congress, the Committee will review the Department's international counterterrorism activities. This review will include examining the roles, responsibilities, and resources devoted by the Department and its components to achieving United States goals to combat terrorism overseas.

The Committee will examine the counterterrorism policies of the US government, with a focus on the Department of Homeland Se-

curity. This examination will include an assessment of the worldwide threat against the US homeland from various groups, such as Al Qaeda core, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), al Shahbab, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Boko Haram, and other emerging terrorist groups. The Committee will also examine Iran's sponsorship of terrorism via its proxies, most notably Hezbollah, including expanding ties in the western hemisphere. This examination will include the extent to which the Department's strategic planning efforts address these threats. The Committee will monitor the homeland security ramifications of potential military action against the illicit Iranian nuclear program and the geopolitical ramifications across the Middle East and North Africa. The Committee will also monitor issues related to homegrown terrorist threats, economic threats, and terrorist travel and financing issues.

COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

Throughout the 113th Congress, the Committee will track the development of the Department of Homeland Security Counterintelligence Program, to ensure it is fully meeting the Department's needs. DHS's counterintelligence efforts are intended to prevent adversaries from penetrating the Department to exploit sensitive information, operations, programs, personnel, and resources.

UNCONVENTIONAL AND EMERGING THREATS

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine the capabilities and efforts of the Department to identify, prevent, deter, and respond to emerging future threats. For example, GPS navigation systems have a significant impact on the daily lives of most Americans but these systems are highly susceptible to being jammed and hijacked. These threats could disrupt civil aviation and emergency communications, attack global financial exchanges, and corrupt the energy grid. The Committee will monitor the extent to which the Department effectively coordinates and collaborates with other relevant US agencies to mitigate these threats to the homeland.

HOMELAND SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ENTERPRISE

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's Intelligence Enterprise, including intelligence activities throughout the Department and component agencies. This will include a focus on the coordination and collaboration across intelligence offices and personnel within the Headquarters' elements and component agencies. Additionally, the Committee will review efforts to build the intelligence, analytical, and assessment capabilities of the Department and to ensure its full participation in the Intelligence Community as part of its homeland security mission. This will include an examination of the hiring authorities, practices, and career-development of intelligence analysts and professionals within Headquarters elements and component agencies. The Committee will examine the Department's role in managing, distributing, and otherwise using terrorist threat information in furtherance of its homeland security mission.

The Committee will also examine national security clearance policies and processes within the Department.

INFORMATION SHARING

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine the progress being made to improve terrorist and homeland security information sharing efforts among Federal, state, and local governments, law enforcement entities, first responders, emergency management personnel, and the private sector. The Committee will examine the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to coordinate information sharing efforts from across the Federal government to and from state and local fusion centers throughout the country. As part of this examination, the Committee will review the efficacy and efficiency of state and local fusion centers to determine their impact on securing the homeland.

Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security

BORDER SECURITY

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will continue to examine the Department's efforts to secure land and maritime borders of the United States, including but not limited to personnel, technology, infrastructure, and coordination. The Committee will also assess the status of programs and international agreements to secure US land borders on the north and the south, as well as the Caribbean region, from illegal entry by persons or contraband. The Committee will monitor the extent to which the Department can measure its performance in securing the borders and how these measures reflect the state of border security.

The Committee will also examine the technologies used to secure the borders. Specifically, the Committee will conduct oversight of the Department's acquisitions of border technologies, such as those used in the Arizona Border Surveillance Technology Plan, and examine the extent to which the Department is leveraging defense technologies, such as unmanned aerial systems, to effectively secure the borders. This oversight will also include the Department's use of aerial assets in support of border security. The Committee will continue to monitor the threat of spill-over violence stemming from the rise of drug cartels and the violent conflict throughout Mexico. The Committee will also examine the Department's efforts to identify, detain, prioritize, and remove criminal aliens from the United States, including those apprehended at or near US borders and ports of entry who are subject to deportation, particularly those from special interest countries.

BORDER SCREENING AND TERRORIST TRAVEL

In the 113th Congress, the Committee intends to review efforts to ensure the deployment and implementation of training and infrastructure enhancements to assist border and consular officials in identifying, intercepting, and disrupting terrorists or others who would do our Nation harm and who are attempting to enter or travel within the United States. The Committee will address security-related deficiencies in the immigration and naturalization proc-

ess that terrorists could use to gain entry to or remain in the country for illegitimate purposes. These weaknesses have and will continue to be exploited by terrorists and those seeking to commit terrorist acts. The Committee intends to continue to explore challenges associated with visa security.

The Committee will also examine the integration, security, and reliability of criminal, immigration, and terrorist databases used to screen persons seeking to enter and exit this country, to include advanced passenger information and the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US–VISIT) program. The Committee will also assess the development of secure travel documents. In addition, the Committee will examine the integration and effectiveness of transportation and border security screening systems at ports of entry for detecting high-risk passengers and cargo transported within the United States and across our borders, including efforts to better facilitate travel and trade such as implementation of "trusted traveler" programs and the Beyond the Border Agreement. The Committee will also examine the Department's security efforts between ports of entry and the extent to which it collaborates with other federal, state, and local agencies regarding border security.

PORT AND MARITIME SECURITY

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine various aspects of port and maritime security, including the security of port facilities; the screening of vessels, passengers, cargo, and crew for potential terrorists, terrorist weapons, and contraband; nuclear detection efforts; the development of international security standards for shipping and containers; and the implementation and operation, including technology utilized, of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential. The Committee also plans to review how the Department manages risk emerging from maritime threats and vulnerabilities such as small boats and semi-submersible submarines.

The Committee plans to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department's supply chain security programs, such as the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C–TPAT) and the Container Security Initiative (CSI), to ensure a proper balance between the facilitation of lawful trade and the security of the homeland. This will include an assessment of implementation of the Maritime and Transportation Security Act of 2002 (P.L. 107–295), the Security and Accountability for Every (SAFE) Port Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–347), relevant provisions of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (P.L. 108–458), and the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (P.L. 110–53).

U.S. COAST GUARD

During the 113th Congress, the Committee plans to review the Coast Guard's homeland security missions, to include ports, waterways, and coastal security; drug interdiction; migrant interdiction; law enforcement; and defense readiness. The Committee will examine Coast Guard afloat, aviation, and shore-based operations in

support of these missions to ensure that the service is using a risk-based, layered strategy to enforce laws and keep America's waters secure. This will include a specific assessment of the Coast Guard's anti-terrorist capabilities, most notably those found within the Deployable Operations Group and its units, including Maritime Safety and Security Teams, Port Security Units, Tactical Law Enforcement Teams, and the Maritime Security Response Team.

The Committee will monitor the Coast Guard's efforts to address threats from small vessels, issues from offshore oil rigs, and essential vulnerable vessels such as tankers. Additionally, the Committee will review resource and asset needs within the Coast Guard to determine whether the service is operationally ready to address threats and emergencies while pursuing a long-term sustainable path of fleet recapitalization. The Committee will specifically examine the progress, efficiency, and efficacy of acquisitions programs to ensure major procurements remain on schedule without a reduction in readiness throughout the service.

Furthermore, the Committee will investigate the Coast Guard's specific maritime security operations and initiatives, such as the International Port Security Program and the inspection of vessels originating from ports with inadequate anti-terrorism measures. The Committee will examine these and other programs to ensure that the service is developing a full sense of maritime domain awareness and executing all of its missions in the most effective manner possible to keep America secure.

Subcommittee on Transportation Security

AVIATION SECURITY

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine the risks to the aviation system, as well as the development and implementation of security measures to reduce or mitigate such risks. The Committee's oversight will review programs and procedures implemented by the Department of Homeland Security related to the security of all types of aircraft, including commercial passenger, air cargo, and general aviation aircraft. In addition, the Committee will examine airport perimeter and access controls and technology for limiting access to the secure areas of commercial and general aviation airports. The Committee will also examine the training and management of the Federal Air Marshal Service.

In addition, the Committee will examine the Department's global strategy for securing the aviation system including its cooperation with foreign countries on security procedures and technologies and the harmonization of aviation security standards worldwide. The Committee will identify international best practices to aviation security that could result in efficiencies in the United States. The Committee also remains concerned about weaknesses in the Alien Flight Student program and will continue to monitor the Department's progress in correcting these weaknesses. The Committee will continue to pursue options for strengthening the security process for US citizens enrolled in flight training.

PASSENGER AND BAGGAGE SCREENING

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will review TSA's deployment of technology and implementation of procedures related to the screening of passengers in all modes of transportation and will examine TSA's balancing security interests with the need for the efficient flow of travel, including privacy and civil liberties safeguards. The Committee will conduct oversight on the cost and effectiveness of technology related to the screening of baggage; transportation security information sharing within the Federal interagency process; and the effectiveness of the credentialing process. The Committee will also review TSA's passenger search policies and pre-screening programs, including the screening of passengers against no-fly and selectee lists, the performance of the Secure Flight program, and other measures that affect the security of domestic and international air travelers.

REFORMING TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine additional options for the Department to allow the private sector more flexibility to innovate transportation security including the Screening Partnership Program. The Committee will explore the costs and benefits of these options. The Committee will continue to examine the extent to which a risk-based security approach can increase efficiencies in the TSA workforce without compromising security. This examination will include the effectiveness of the Department's outreach to the public on its transportation security measures. The Committee will also monitor the progress of the Department to implement risk-based screening initiatives, such as TSA's Pre-Check program, at airports nationwide to increase efficiencies in the screening process. This includes assessing the effectiveness of these initiatives.

The Committee will review the Department's acquisition and procurement policies, practices, and procedures for screening technologies to ensure the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Committee will continue to seek input from independent groups outside the Department to help ensure a leaner, smarter, more efficient organization. In addition, the Committee will monitor the extent to which the Department enlists the private sector to modernize and, to the extent feasible, automate the passenger screening process to reduce invasive pat-downs; implements privacy software on all Advanced Imaging Technology machines; sponsors an independent analysis of the potential health impacts of AIT machines; and further validates the Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques program and assesses the value added to aviation security.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will review the Transportation Security Administration's efforts to secure surface transit systems, including the most at-risk mass transit systems, buses, subway light rail, and passenger rail, freight rail, pipelines, and highway systems. Moreover, in examining the security of surface transportation systems, the Committee will consider options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the surface transportation

inspection program. The Committee will also examine the efficacy and impact of Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response teams. The Committee will also monitor the extent to which the Department effectively coordinates with other Federal partners, such as the Department of Transportation, the Federal Rail Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration to secure our nation's transportation systems. The Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential and its impact on those required to obtain the credential.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY REGULATIONS

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine transportation security regulations in order to reduce the burden on the economy and improve American global competitiveness. The Committee will examine the challenges to finalize guidance related to foreign-aircraft repair-station security. The Committee will continue to seek perspectives from the private sector on the impact of transportation security regulations and options for the Department to become more efficient and effective.

Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine the Administration's efforts to implement Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD–8), and the required National Preparedness System, which includes the various frameworks and the National Preparedness Goal. Additionally, the Committee will review the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) response and recovery efforts for declared disasters to ensure capabilities are enhanced by lessons learned and Federal resources are used appropriately. The Committee will investigate issues, if any, of waste, fraud, and abuse associated with FEMA's disaster response efforts.

ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Throughout the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine FEMA's allocation and administration of grants to enhance the ability of state and local governments and emergency response providers to prevent, prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from a terrorist attack, including proposals for reforms to these programs. The Committee will review the coordination of grant programs across the Federal government; coordination within the Department of Homeland Security in developing guidance and administering grants; the ability of state and local governments to access, obligate, and expend funds; strength of regional partnerships developed through grants; and the risk-based distribution and expenditure of such grants at the state and local levels. The Committee will examine options to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of grant programs. The Committee will also review ongoing efforts to comprehensively assess these investments and the impact on pre-

paredness capabilities through the lens of the National Preparedness Goal, National Preparedness Report, State Preparedness Reports, and other related measures.

CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine the significant challenges posed by chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) weapons to homeland security and assess the Department's progress in implementing security strategies including prevention, preparedness, and response approaches that utilize multiple tools and policies to reduce the likelihood and impact of CBRN attacks and, thus, the CBRN risk to the Nation. The Committee will oversee the Department's efforts to predict and respond to the evolving CBRN threat landscape, and ensure that CBRN expenditures are risk-based, coordinated, and in general represent wise use of taxpayer dollars. The Committee will examine the Department's capability to mitigate CBRN risks through appropriate means including detection of, preparedness for, and response to CBRN threats. The Committee will continue its oversight of those activities needed to ensure the safety of the public and the first responder community in the event of an attack, such as through the development of medical countermeasures programs. The Committee will also oversee preparedness for agricultural terrorism events.

COMMUNICATIONS

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine the coordination of the various communications programs and offices within the Department of Homeland Security. The Committee will monitor activities of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and the development of the public safety interoperable wireless broadband network. In addition, the Committee will review the Department's programs in the establishment of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System to ensure timely and effective alerts and warnings are provided to the public in the event of an emergency.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDER TRAINING

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will review the Department's terrorism preparedness training programs, including awareness of these resources among first responders and state and local governments and the level of coordination among Federal, state, and local training programs. The Committee will also review existing training centers and determine whether the Department is optimally utilizing these facilities to enhance first responder terrorism preparedness.

EXERCISES AND SIMULATIONS

The Committee will examine the Department's efforts to streamline and improve the National Exercise Program to ensure the program enhances the preparedness of the Nation. The Committee will monitor the extent to which FEMA is incorporating lessons learned

from national exercises into future training, planning, and response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies

CYBERSECURITY

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine the Department's role in hardening our national critical infrastructure against cyber attacks by fortifying Federal civilian networks and collaborating with the private sector to develop the means to detect and prevent cyber attacks, reduce vulnerabilities, provide incident response, and facilitate recovery. That oversight will consider the Department's ability to detect the incursion of malicious activity; attribute the source of that activity; and promote best practices, risk assessments, and sharing of threat information across all levels of government and the private sector.

The Department has been delegated authority by the White House to develop cybersecurity policy across the civilian government agencies. The Committee will monitor that this policy is effective, efficient and scalable to ensure the security of government networks. In addition, the Committee will examine the Department's ability to foster research and development cybersecurity technology as well as developing a substantial and capable professional cybersecurity workforce. The Department has recently reorganized the offices tasked with carrying out its cybersecurity mission so the Committee will review the efficiencies in these offices to make sure that the bureaucracy enables, and doesn't hinder, the mission. The Committee will also examine the resiliency of national critical infrastructure to withstand cyber attacks and the need to optimize supply chain risk management in order to protect against manipulation without unnecessarily impeding commerce.

The Committee will also review the integration of the various cyber missions carried out across the Federal government, including its collaboration with the defense and intelligence agencies. Similarly the Committee will monitor the Department's role in fulfilling the goals of the Homeland Security blueprint for cybersecurity, as well as the development and the implementation of the National Cyber Incident Response Plan, which expands upon the National Response Framework. The Committee will ensure that the Department facilitates the improved security of our Nation's critical infrastructure while earning and building on the trust of the owners and operators of that infrastructure.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Pursuant to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD–7), the Department is responsible for integrating sector specific strategies into a National Strategy for Critical Infrastructure Protection, and for coordinating Federal efforts across all such infrastructure sectors. During the 113th Congress, Committee oversight will focus on the Department's national coordination responsibilities and its sector specific critical infrastructure protection respon-

sibilities. The Committee will also examine the Department's efforts to assess national critical infrastructure priorities.

In addition, the Committee will review the Department's progress in identifying, prioritizing, recommending, and implementing protective measures to reduce vulnerabilities for critical infrastructure and key resources, including its administration of programs to promote private sector sharing of critical infrastructure threat and vulnerability-related information, and its administration of systems and programs to provide timely warnings of potential risks to critical infrastructure.

CHEMICAL FACILITY SECURITY

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will continue to review the Department's efforts to secure chemical facilities and take action, as appropriate, to optimally balance the program's effectiveness in reducing risk posed by certain chemical facilities and the everyday demands for chemicals in commerce. The Committee will review the management challenges associated with the Department's related chemical facility security program and the progress in increasing its efficiency and effectiveness.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will oversee the capability of the Department's Science & Technology Directorate to rapidly develop and deliver products and technology solutions to its customers, including the operating components of the Department, and state and local emergency responders and officials, to help them secure the homeland by preventing, protecting against, and responding to terrorist threats and natural disasters. The Committee will examine, in particular, the Department's progress in developing a more rigorous process to identify, prioritize, and fund research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E) opportunities that balances risk to the homeland with cost, impact, and time to deliver.

The Committee will review the Department's efforts to coordinate the homeland security research and development agenda and leverage scientific knowledge and technical expertise, research, and facilities at relevant universities, research institutions, government and national laboratories, and the private sector, including the Homeland Security Centers of Excellence and Federally Funded Research and Development Centers. The Committee will also assess the status of the Department's technical infrastructure and workforce to ensure current and future homeland security RDT&E needs will be met. The Committee will review the Department's activities relating to evaluation, testing, and certification of private sector homeland security technologies.

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will also continue to review the Directorate's implementation of the Support Anti-terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies Act (the SAFETY Act), to determine its impact on homeland security and facilitation of jobs in the private sector.

TECHNOLOGY TO COUNTER CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR THREATS

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine the Department's progress in improving the Nation's capability to counter the threat of terrorist use of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons in the United States through multi-layered approaches at the Federal, state, and local levels. The Committee will review the Department's chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear analysis capabilities and information sharing mechanisms to provide actionable information and an integrated operating system to guide decision makers in carrying out appropriate responses, including interdiction.

To enhance the ability to interdict chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear smuggling across US borders (land, air, and sea), the Committee will oversee the Department's progress in employing risk-based methods for developing, testing, certifying, deploying, and operating current and next generation chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear detection equipment. The Committee will also examine the Department's ability to detect chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials in the interior of the United States and the Department's coordination with state and local partners to reduce the risk of these threats. Finally, the Committee will examine the Department's chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear forensic activities to support national priorities for deterrence, attribution, and prosecution.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency

DEPARTMENTAL EFFICIENCY AND WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, AND DUPLICATION

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will oversee the Department of Homeland Security's day-to-day operations to ensure that it is operating in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Pursuant to Rule X, clause 2(d)(F) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee will work to identify potential opportunities to eliminate duplicative or unnecessary programs, find efficiencies that will contribute to the Department's ability to meet its vital missions, and identify areas for cost savings. The Committee will also conduct rigorous oversight to ensure departmental regulations enhance security without posing an unnecessary barrier to private sector job creation. The Committee will investigate homeland security programs and practices, as warranted. For example, the Committee will continue to monitor the safety and security of Federal buildings and facilities, including the role and effectiveness of the Federal Protective Service. The Committee's oversight will include monitoring the extent to which the Department is responsive to the Committee's requests.

ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will review the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security to improve acquisition outcomes, and to ensure that effective management controls are put in place to prevent contract waste, fraud, and abuse while

promoting efficiency and effectiveness. The Committee will review the authorities and activities of the Undersecretary for Management and Chief Procurement Officer to ensure the effective management of these key functions. The Committee will monitor the cost, schedule, and performance status of major Department acquisition programs. The Committee will also examine the impact of the Department's acquisition initiatives to enhance processes and improve outcomes related to its major acquisition programs.

The Committee also will review the Department's implementation of Section 831(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which grants the Secretary authority with respect to research and development projects to use more flexible contracting mechanisms in an effort to attract "nontraditional government contractors" for needed homeland security technologies, as well as the Secretary's use of other streamlined acquisition practices. The Committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts to leverage strategic sourcing, as outlined in Federal guidance, to increase efficiencies.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's progress to properly manage financial systems and data to minimize inefficient and wasteful spending, make more informed decisions to manage its programs and implement Department policies. The Committee will also review the Department's efforts to enhance its managerial cost accounting, address internal control weaknesses in financial reporting, achieve a clean audit opinion on its financial statements, and reduce the reliance on manual data calls to collect cost information from the various components and compile consolidated, reliable data.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

During the 113th Congress, the Committee will review the Department's efforts to address information technology (IT) challenges, including the management and integration of the Department's IT systems. The Committee will review the authorities and activities of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and component CIOs to ensure the effective management and coordination of these key functions. The Committee will also monitor the Department's progress in IT architectural planning, investment management, cloud computing, policy development, operations, and related personnel management.

DEPARTMENTAL WORKFORCE

Throughout the 113th Congress, the Committee will monitor the Department's efforts to recruit and retain personnel and to address employee concerns set forth in the Office of Personnel Management's Federal Human Capital Survey and the Department's own personnel surveys, which have indicated morale problems across the Department. In addition, the Committee will continue to examine the Department's Balanced Workforce Initiative, which seeks to convert contractor positions into Federal positions, to ensure an appropriate balance is struck between Federal employees and private

contracts and guard against any unnecessary elimination of private sector jobs.

The Committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts to effectively and efficiently consolidate its headquarters from more than 40 locations throughout the National Capital Region, known as the St. Elizabeth's Headquarters Consolidation Project.

EMPLOYEE INTEGRITY

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine employee corruption and misconduct issues and their effect on homeland security. Although the vast majority of Department employees reflect the agency's core values, even one corrupt employee represents a significant management challenge. The Committee will review Department statistics and case studies associated with employee integrity issues, as well as the effectiveness of policies, procedures, and practices the Department utilizes to address such issues.

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine the homeland security operations of the United States Secret Service, including its critical role of protecting the President of the United States, among other duties. The Committee will also monitor issues related to employee integrity.

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Section 222 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (the Act) created a Privacy Officer for the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that the Department's information gathering and analysis functions and other programs across its components adhere to established standards for the protection of privacy. Section 705 of the Act also established an Officer for Civil Rights and Liberties to review and assess information alleging abuses of civil rights or civil liberties by employees and officials of the Department of Homeland Security. During the 113th Congress, the Committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts under such laws to strike an appropriate balance between the need to combat terrorist attacks against the United States with the privacy expectations and civil rights of US citizens. For example, the Committee will continue to monitor the Department's role in oversight of the domestic use of unmanned aerial systems.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

OVERSIGHT PLAN

Ms. Miller offers the following Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to Committee Resolution 113–2.

After the Resolved clause, delete all text and replace with the following:

MEMBER SERVICES

• Oversee Members' allowance amounts, including structure and regulations.

• Provide guidance and outreach to congressional offices to ensure compliance with Committee regulations.

• Review and revise the *Guide to Outfitting and Maintaining an Office of the U.S. House of Representatives,* a set of regulations governing the acquisition, transfer, and disposal of furnishings, equipment, software, and related services.

• Update the calculation of the Members' Representational Allowances and ensure that all Members have adequate resources for representing their constituents.

• Oversee the processing of vouchers and direct payments, including those for payroll.

New Member Orientation

• Plan, implement, and oversee the New Member Orientation Program for newly-elected Members of Congress.

• Oversee the planning and implementation of the Congressional Research Service New Member Issues Seminar in Williamsburg.

Intern Program

• In coordination with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, organize, administer, and oversee the Intern Lecture Series.

• Review and consider revising the Intern Handbook and other publications and communication materials used in support of the Intern Program.

• Continue and expand the Congressional Internship Program for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.

COMMITTEE FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT

• Review Monthly Reports on committee activities and expenditures.

• Review the *Committees' Congressional Handbook* regulations governing expenditure of committee funds and update regulations as needed.

• Review Primary and any Secondary Expense Resolutions and approve authorization of committee-funding levels in committee and by House Resolution.
• Review Committees' Franking expenditures.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

• Monitor application of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) (PL 104–1).
• Review regulations adopted by the Office of Compliance.
• Evaluate resources available to the Office of Compliance and House employing offices to facilitate implementation of the Act.
• Conduct general oversight of the Office of Compliance.
• Monitor ongoing judicial proceedings to determine the impact on the CAA.

FRANKING COMMISSION

• Oversee the Members' use of the congressional frank by providing guidance, advice, and counsel through consultation or advisory opinion on the frankability of congressional mail
• Review proposals to reform mass mailing practices of Members, and regulations governing such mailings, and monitor current prohibition on mass mailings 90 days before a primary or general election.
• Review previously implemented rules to increase disclosure and improve the accounting of franked mail costs.
• Revise the *Regulations on the Use of the Congressional Frank and Rules on Practice in Proceedings Before the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards.*

HOUSE OFFICERS AND HOUSE OPERATIONS

• Work with House officers to identify and reduce spending and create more cost effective and efficient operations within the House.
• Analyze management improvement proposals and other initiatives submitted by the House Officers, the Inspector General, the Capitol Police Board, the Architect of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institute, and other legislative branch agencies.
• Coordinate with the Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations on matters impacting operations of the House and joint entities.
• Provide policy guidance to the House Officers, Inspector General and the joint entities as appropriate.
• Oversee compliance with the House Employee Classification Act (2 U.S.C. 291 *et seq.*).
• Assure coordination among officers and joint entities on administrative and technology matters.
• Continue review of congressional continuity issues, including organizing sessions of Congress at alternate locations, technological support for Member communications and chamber operations and filling vacancies in the House.
• Provide policy guidance and conduct oversight of security and safety issues and congressional entities charged with such roles.

Chief Administrative Officer

• Review procedures for processing contracts with the House that exceed the threshold of $350,000.

• Continue to review the current financial management system and implementation of the Financial System Replacement project.

• Review the structure of House Information Resources and determine organizational direction of technology services in the House.

• Review and oversee information technology services provided, maintained or hosted by House Information Resources. Continue oversight of failsafe procedures to guarantee continuity of operations.

• Review new technology initiatives to better serve Members, committees, and the public.

• Continue the review of administrative operations assigned to the Chief Administrative Officer.

• Review semi-annual financial and operational status reports; oversee implementation of changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.

• Review the operations and strategic planning of the House gift shop.

• Continue review of House restaurant operations; furniture policy, inventory and selection; and alternatives to the current mail delivery process in order to strengthen the services and tools available to Members and staff.

• Review the printing needs of the Chief Administrative Officer's operation to identify the potential for eliminating duplication.

• Examine Chief Administrative Officer's role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, the House Office Buildings and other House facilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

• Review staff benefits offered by the House and proposals to modify benefits.

• Continue oversight of CAO functions performed for Members, committees and other entities to assure that current model delivers best value for entities served and taxpayers.

Clerk of the House

• Review the administration of audio transmission on the House floor.

• Review and approve contracts and requests for proposals by the Clerk that exceed the $350,000 spending threshold.

• Oversee the Document Management System.

• Review standards for the electronic exchange of legislative information among the Houses of Congress and legislative-branch agencies.

• Coordinate on matters under the jurisdiction of the House Fine Arts Board.

• Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Clerk.

• Review of semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.

• Review the printing needs of the Clerk to evaluate the potential for eliminating duplication.
• Oversee preparation of congressionally-authorized publications.

Sergeant-at-Arms

• Review and oversee security operations in the House, including the House chamber, the galleries, the Capitol, House Office Buildings, Capitol Grounds, and District offices.
• Review and oversee initiatives designed to increase security and security awareness for Members and staff in district offices.
• Review semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
• Review impact of electronic access to controlled spaces.
• Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Sergeant-at-Arms.
• Review the security operation of House parking facilities, regulations, and allocation of parking spaces.
• Consult with the Sergeant-at-Arms on policies adopted by the Capitol Police Board.
• Review the policies and procedures for visitor access to the Capitol.
• Review the printing needs of the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Capitol Police Board to identify the potential for eliminating duplication.
• Examine Sergeant-at-Arms' role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, the House Office Buildings, and other House facilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
• Review the use of technology generally in the protection of the House of Representatives.
• Oversee the Office of Emergency Management, including the implementation of coordinated plans for emergency evacuation and response.

House Inspector General

• Review proposed audit plan and audit reports.
• Review comprehensive financial and operational audits of the House, investigate any irregularities uncovered, and monitor necessary improvements.
• Monitor progress of House audits.
• Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Inspector General.
• Direct Inspector General to conduct management advisories to improve implementation and operation of key House functions.

OVERSIGHT OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AND OTHER ENTITIES

Information and Technology Coordination

• Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, forums for the sharing of technology plans and capabilities among the legislative branch agencies.
• Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, the Legislative Branch Telecommunications group.

• Oversee continuing development of the Congress.gov website.
• Oversee work of the Legislative Branch Financial Managers' Council.
• Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, proposals to reduce technology costs through consolidation and use of internet-based resources.

Library of Congress

• Conduct a review of the progress that the Library has made in providing public access to government information, especially in electronic form.
• Continue oversight of Library of Congress operations, including inventory and cataloguing systems.
• Continue oversight of Law Library operations.
• Continue oversight of Congressional Research Service operations, and consider any need to modify management of the Service.
• Review implementation of the Library of Congress Fiscal Operations Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–481), the Veterans' Oral History Project Act (Public Law 106–380), the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000 (Public Law No: 106–474), and the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act (Public Law 106–99).
• Consider human-resources legislation proposed by the Library.
• Review the use of technology generally in Library of Congress operations.
• Review printing policies of the Library of Congress to assure compliance with Title 44 of the U.S. Code.
• Review reports by Library of Congress Inspector General and implementation of audit recommendations. Examine options to improve operation and structure of the Library of Congress Inspector General's office.

United States Capitol Police

• Monitor administrative operations of the agency, including budgetary management, civilian component, attrition rates, recruitment efforts and incentive programs for officers and civilian employees.
• Review proposals for additional USCP facilities and equipment.
• Review analysis of uniformed officer post/duty assignments to determine and authorize force levels to meet the agency's security requirements within the Capitol complex to include the Capitol Visitor Center, the Library of Congress and U.S. Botanic Garden.
• Review and consider proposals to improve USCP training program for new recruits, and in-service training.
• Authorize and oversee the installation and maintenance of new security systems and devices proposed by the Police Board.
• Review and authorize regulations prescribed by the Police Board for use of law enforcement authority by the Capitol Police.
• Examine Capitol Police role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, House Office Buildings and other facilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
• Monitor the ongoing implementation of the Radio Modernization Project.

• Review reports by USCP Inspector General and implementation of audit recommendations. Examine options to improve operation and structure of the USCP Inspector General's office.

Government Printing Office

• Oversee operations of the Government Printing Office, including the Superintendent of Documents.
• Review and adopt legislative proposals to reform government printing by eliminating redundancies and unnecessary printing, increasing efficiency, and enhancing public access to government publications.
• Examine options to improve operation and structure of the GPO Inspector General's office. Monitor implementation of remedial actions taken to address audit issues identified by the GPO Inspector General.
• Review the printing needs of the House of Representatives to identify the potential for eliminating duplication.
• Examine current GPO printing and binding regulations to determine advisability of change.
• Oversee Superintendent of Documents' Sales and Depository Library Programs.
• Review GPO labor practices and labor agreements.
• Review use of GPO facilities and other assets to identify possible alternatives enhancing value to the Congress and the public.
• Compare the responsibilities and operations of the GPO Police with the responsibilities and operations of the U.S. Capitol Police, in order to identify duplication and potential future savings.

Architect of the Capitol

• Review the operations of the office of the Architect.
• Review the electronic and procured services provided by the Architect.
• Oversee Architect of the Capitol's maintenance of House buildings and the House side of the Capitol, and review any plans for rehabilitation of House buildings.
• Continue oversight of life safety measures, accessibility measures, and improved evacuation mechanisms in House buildings.
• Review the AOC Office of Sustainability's efforts to reduce energy consumption by the Capitol complex.
• Continue oversight of implementation of utility tunnel rehabilitation settlement.
• Oversee operations of the Capitol Visitors Center, in conjunction with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.
• Review reports by Architect of the Capitol Inspector General and implementation of audit recommendations. Examine options to improve operation and structure of the Architect of the Capitol Inspector General's office.

Office of Congressional Accessibility Services

• Oversee management and operations of Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, such as the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), in conjunction with Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

Smithsonian Institution

• Review the Smithsonian Inspector General's reports on the status of the Smithsonian.

• Oversee general museum and research facility operations of the Smithsonian Institution.

• Review and evaluate the Smithsonian Institution's use of authorized public funds.

• Review proposed appointments of Citizen Regents to the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents.

• Review proposals for authorization of new Smithsonian facilities. Review Smithsonian policies regarding initiation of planning, design and construction of projects.

• Review operations of the National Zoo.

• Review operations and conduct oversight of Smithsonian Enterprises.

• Review the use of technology generally in Smithsonian operations.

• Review any proposals to charge fees for admission to any Smithsonian exhibits.

TECHNOLOGY USE BY THE HOUSE

• Continue oversight of House Information Resources and other technology functions of the House to improve electronic information dissemination.

• Oversee implementation of House Rule XI 2(e)(4) requiring committee documentation to be made available electronically, to the maximum extent feasible.

• Review cyber security measures.

• Oversee implementation of Committee hearing room upgrade program.

• Oversee and continue to implement an enterprise House Disaster Recovery Program for House offices, standing and select committees and Member offices.

• Oversee implementation of the House Office of Legislative Counsel & Law Revision Counsel's Modernization Project.

• Oversee and coordinate the House strategic technology plan.

• Oversee continuation of House technology assessment in new media.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL ELECTION LAW AND PROCEDURES

• Recommend disposition of House election contests pending before the Committee; monitor any disputed election counts.

• Review operations of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and evaluate possible changes to improve efficiency, improve enforcement of the Federal Election Campaign Act, and improve procedures for the disclosure of contributions and expenditures. Consider authorization issues and make recommendations on the FEC's budget.

• Review federal campaign-finance laws and regulations, including Presidential public financing, and consider potential reforms.

• Examine the role and impact of political organizations on federal elections.

• Review operations of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and evaluate possible changes to improve efficiency and improve implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Consider authorization issues and make recommendations on the EAC's budget.

• Examine the impact and implementation of amendments made by HAVA and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act) to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), and consider proposals to improve voting methods for those serving and living abroad.

• Review state and federal activities under the National Voter Registration Act to identify potential for improvement to voter registration and education programs and reducing costs of compliance for state and local government.

• Review all aspects of registration and voting practices in federal elections. Monitor allegations of fraud and misconduct during all phases of federal elections and evaluate measures to improve the integrity of the electoral process.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

OVERSIGHT PLAN

In accordance with Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary is responsible for determining whether the laws and programs within its jurisdiction are implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress and whether they should be continued, curtailed, eliminated, or enhanced. Accordingly, in the 113th Congress the Committee will review all laws and programs within its jurisdiction to assess their application, administration, execution, and effectiveness. The Committee will also review the organization and operation of Federal agencies and entities within its jurisdiction for the administration and execution of laws and programs within its jurisdiction.

The Committee will review all agencies and programs within its jurisdiction to identify wasteful, inefficient, or duplicative programs that should be streamlined or eliminated, as well as those that could be enhanced. The Committee will also review the mission and operations of all agencies, including component organizations, within its jurisdiction. Through such oversight, the Committee seeks to determine how these agencies and entities can achieve more impactful and effective programs with an eye toward improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Federal programs and agencies. The Committee also seeks to eliminate fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. As a result of this oversight, the Committee anticipates streamlining and eliminating spending on agencies and programs within its jurisdiction, if appropriate.

This document outlines the current plans of the Committee on the Judiciary for oversight activities in the 113th Congress. The Committee's oversight and investigative activities will be coordinated between the Full Committee and the Subcommittees in order to facilitate comprehensive and strategic oversight of the programs and agencies within its jurisdiction. Oversight activities will include hearings, briefings, correspondence, reports, and public statements.

FULL COMMITTEE

U.S. Department of Justice. In conjunction with the Subcommittees, the Committee will conduct oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice, including all Department components and agencies.

Budget Oversight and Management Performance. The Committee will conduct oversight and identify U.S. Department of Justice grant programs that should be streamlined or eliminated, as well as those that could be enhanced. The Committee will also conduct oversight of all agencies and programs within its jurisdiction to uncover waste, fraud, or abuse and to identify programs that are inef-

ficient, duplicative, or outdated, or that are more appropriately administered by State or local governments. The Committee will also consider the extent to which federally funded or administered agencies and activities can more efficiently handle certain tasks on a national level and whether they save, reduce, or render more effective State or local government expenditures or activities. In addition, the Committee will consider whether any federal programs within its jurisdiction should be enhanced, concomitant with cuts to or the elimination of less effective programs.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM, HOMELAND SECURITY & INVESTIGATIONS

U.S. Department of Justice: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the law enforcement agencies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

A. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI): The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the FBI. In addition to its traditional criminal investigatory jurisdiction, the Subcommittee will also conduct oversight of the FBI's counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence authorities.

B. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA): The Subcommittee will review the operations of the DEA, including domestic and international drug enforcement, money laundering and narco-terrorism investigations.

C. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF): The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the ATF, including federal firearms enforcement, explosives investigations, and tobacco and alcohol trafficking operations.

D. U.S. Marshals Service (USMS)/Office of the Federal Detention Trustee: The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the USMS, including fugitive apprehensions, court and witness security, and its responsibilities under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight on the operations of OFDT.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP): The Subcommittee will review the mission and operation of the federal prison system, including prisoner rehabilitation, reentry programs, and management of a growing offender population.

Federal Prison Industries: The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight of the Federal Prison Industries (FPI), a government corporation that employs offenders incarcerated in federal prisons and provides job training opportunities to prisoners by producing goods and services for federal agencies.

Criminal Division: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Justice Department's Criminal Division.

National Security Division: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Justice Department's National Security Division.

Office of Justice Programs (OJP): The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of OJP and its component organizations and the administration of law enforcement assistance grants in order to identify programs that should be streamlined or eliminated, and those that could be enhanced.

Office on Violence against Women (OVW): The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of OVW and the administration of Violence against Women Act (VAWA) grants.

Community Oriented Policing Services Office (COPS): The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of COPS and the administration of community policing grants.

Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA): The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the operations of EOUSA.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS): The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of DHS law enforcement components, including the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Federal Air Marshals Service.

U.S. Sentencing Commission: The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the U.S. Sentencing Commission with particular attention to the role of the Commission following the Supreme Court's decision in *U.S. v. Booker,* 543 U.S. 220 (2005) and its progeny. The Subcommittee will also examine the extent to which federal courts are imposing sentences that diverge from those recommended by the sentencing guidelines.

National Security: The Subcommittee will review the use of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and U.S. PATRIOT Act authorities by Intelligence Community (IC) agencies.

Domestic/Home-Grown Terrorism: The Subcommittee will review the threat to our national security from home-grown terrorists including the recruitment and training or self-radicalization of home-grown terrorists and the federal government's efforts to preempt, investigate, and prosecute domestic terrorism.

Protection of U.S. Citizens' Constitutional Rights: The Subcommittee along with the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice will examine the adequacy of current protections for U.S. citizens' Constitutional rights vis-à-vis law enforcement and national security efforts.

Trial of Suspected Terrorists: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on matters related to the prosecution of suspected terrorists.

Electronic Communications Privacy Act: The Subcommittee will examine whether this decades-old statute requires modernization in light of the digital revolution that has taken place since the statute's enactment.

Cybersecurity: The Subcommittee will review the laws and law enforcement tools designed to combat and prevent cybersecurity attacks.

Firearms: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the reauthorization of the NICS Amendments Improvement Act and will examine ways to reduce firearms-related violence, including examining current federal law and state compliance with requirements to post information to the NICS database.

Criminal Code: The Subcommittee will examine whether all criminal statutes in the U.S. Code should be consolidated and/or listed in Title 18.

Overcriminalization: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the increase in the volume and scope of federal criminal laws and

whether more of these matters should be handled by state criminal laws.

Economic Espionage: The Subcommittee will examine the threat posed by economic espionage and federal efforts to investigate and prosecute these crimes.

Crimes against Children: The Subcommittee will review laws and law enforcement tools designed to combat child exploitation, including reauthorization of the Adam Walsh Act, and the proliferation of child pornography on the Internet.

Criminal Street Gangs: The Subcommittee may consider enforcement and prevention issues concerning criminal street gangs, and the issue of how gang affiliations may be broken to reduce the number of both street and prison gangs.

Crime Prevention: The Subcommittee may examine the extent to which federal policies and funding are adequate to support crime prevention strategies at the Federal, State, local, and tribal levels.

International and Domestic Human Trafficking: The Subcommittee will review law enforcement and other activities within its jurisdiction that address international and domestic trafficking in human beings.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL JUSTICE

Protection of U.S. Citizens' Constitutional and Civil Rights: In general, the Subcommittee will examine the adequacy of current protections for U.S. citizens' constitutional and civil rights.

Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice: The Subcommittee will examine the enforcement record and priorities of the Civil Rights Division. The Subcommittee will focus on the Division's activities in the areas of education, employment, credit, fair housing, public accommodations, law enforcement practices, voting rights and the integrity of federal elections, and federally funded and conducted programs.

Fiscal Responsibility: The Subcommittee will examine constitutional reforms to address government spending.

Federalism/Congressional Authority: The Subcommittee plans to examine the proper balance between the finite powers allocated to the federal government in the U.S. Constitution and the powers reserved to the states.

Exercise of Constitutional Authority: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the exercise of constitutional authority by the legislative, judicial, and executive branches.

Civil Justice: The Subcommittee will review the policies and practices of the civil justice system and the need for its reform.

Community Relations Service: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the operations of the Community Relations Service.

Office of Government Ethics: The Subcommittee will consider the priorities and operation of the Office of Government Ethics.

Property Rights: The Subcommittee will consider whether there is a need to address existing protections for citizens' private property rights.

Religious Liberty: The Subcommittee will consider the federal role in the protection of Americans' rights under the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses.

Abortion: The Subcommittee will examine the constitutionality and enforcement of federal and state statutes that relate to abortion.

Marriage: The Subcommittee will examine constitutional issues concerning marriage.

War on Terrorism: The Subcommittee will consider constitutional issues associated with the War on Terrorism.

Detention of Suspected Terrorists: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on matters related to the long-term detention of suspected terrorists, including the protection of the related constitutional rights of U.S. citizens.

United States Commission on Civil Rights: The Subcommittee will review the work of the Commission, its management, and its implementation.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

Budgetary Resources: The Subcommittee expects to conduct oversight of the sufficiency of budgetary resources with regard to immigration functions at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("CIS") and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE").

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS): The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the components within DHS that are responsible for enforcing and ensuring the integrity of United States immigration laws, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Legal Immigration: The Subcommittee expects to conduct oversight over our current legal immigration laws and programs, including whether relevant federal agencies are efficiently administering and enforcing these laws and programs, issues relating to backlogs, family reunification, whether excessive regulations are stifling the use of these programs, the impact on U.S. citizens, comparisons with our global competitors, and related issues.

Illegal Immigration: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the causes and methods of illegal immigration and how to better prevent it in the future.

Fiscal Impacts of Immigration: The Subcommittee expects to conduct hearings on the fiscal effects of legal and illegal immigration, including their impact on the Social Security system and other federal programs.

Immigration Enforcement: The Subcommittee intends to examine the sufficiency of current immigration enforcement laws and programs, including whether relevant federal agencies' policies and enforcement records are sufficient and consistent with current federal statutes, the level of cooperation with other countries, and the proper roles for the federal government, states and localities in enforcing our immigration laws.

Fraud: The Subcommittee expects to conduct hearings on fraud associated with petitions for visas and other immigration benefits. The Subcommittee also intends to conduct oversight of identity fraud and identity theft in the immigration context.

Adjudication of Immigration Cases: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Department of Justice's adjudication of immigration cases.

Criminal Issues: The Subcommittee expects to conduct hearings on trends in gang violence among immigrant communities, as well as the sufficiency of efforts to remove violent criminals.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND THE INTERNET

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the USPTO, including the status of pending patent and trademark applications and developments with patent and trademark quality. The Subcommittee will also continue to exercise oversight to ensure that the USPTO has full access to the fees it collects from applicants and appropriately exercises its new fee-setting authority.

Implementation of the America Invents Act: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the implementation of the America Invents Act that contained numerous changes to our nation's patent system.

Patent Litigation: The Subcommittee will examine patent litigation practices to determine whether legislation is needed to reduce frivolous, abusive, or anti-competitive patent litigation that discourages innovation in America.

The U.S. Copyright Office: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Copyright Office as it completes its transition to a digital environment. Oversight will include review of its recordation system and public access to its registration records.

Copyright Law and Policy: The Subcommittee may examine potential revisions to the Copyright Act to update the law to better address challenges faced by copyright owners, users, and consumers in the digital environment.

Technology Issues: The Subcommittee will examine developments in technology and the Internet affecting public policy, including issues surrounding Internet governance.

Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act: The Subcommittee will examine the application of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act in light of technological and marketplace changes in advance of the potential reauthorization of the legislation.

International Intellectual Property Laws: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the impact of international intellectual property laws, regulations, and policies upon American interests. In addition, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of international trade agreements and their negotiations.

Federal Judiciary: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the federal judiciary, including evidence issues and civil and appellate procedures. In addition, the Subcommittee will examine the resources available to Article III courts, including judicial salaries and security for federal judges.

State Justice Institute: The State Justice Institute (SJI) provides matching grants to state courts that allow them to develop methods to work more efficiently and productively. The Subcommittee intends to review SJI operations.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL AND ANTITRUST LAW

Administrative Process and Procedure: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the topic of regulatory reform in general, including examining specific regulations, as well as issues related to the Administrative Procedure Act, the Congressional Review Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, the overall costs and benefits of federal regulation in general and their impact on specific communities, the extent to which agencies compete for policymaking primacy with the Legislative Branch, and the role that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within the Office of Management and Budget plays in the federal rulemaking process. In addition, the Subcommittee will examine regulatory litigation and enforcement.

Bankruptcy: The Subcommittee expects to conduct oversight of the Bankruptcy Code and bankruptcy system, including their responsiveness to the needs of financially troubled businesses, individuals and municipalities. The Subcommittee may conduct oversight of bankruptcy judgeship needs.

State Taxation Affecting Interstate Commerce: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of issues related to state taxation that affect interstate commerce.

Agencies: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Justice Department's Civil Division, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Antitrust Division, Tax Division, Executive Office for United States Trustees, and Office of the Solicitor General. It will also conduct oversight of the Department's compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

Administrative Conference of the United States: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the Administrative Conference of the United States.

Arbitration: The Subcommittee may conduct oversight of issues arising under the Federal Arbitration Act.

Legal Services Corporation: The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the Legal Services Corporation.

Interstate Compacts: The Subcommittee may conduct oversight to determine the extent of compliance with the constitutional process by which States seek Congressional approval of interstate compacts.

Divergence in U.S. Merger Review and Enforcement: The Subcommittee may examine disparities in the tools available to the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice with regard to mergers and whether these disparities result in different substantive standards.

International Divergence in Antitrust Enforcement: The Subcommittee may conduct oversight of international competition laws.

Antitrust Exemptions: The Subcommittee may conduct oversight of industry antitrust exemptions to determine whether such exemptions continue to serve the public interest.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

OVERSIGHT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Under clause 2 of Rule X of the House of Representatives, each standing committee of the House has general oversight responsibilities to determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction are being implemented in accordance with the intent of Congress to determine whether they should be continued, reformed, curtailed, or eliminated.

Congress has a responsibility to keep the Executive Branch accountable to the American people and ensure that decisions by agencies are open and transparent. During the 112th Congress, the Committee on Natural Resources conducted thoughtful oversight on a number of specific issues and policies administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior and other agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction—seeking answers to how and why policy decisions are made, who made the decision, and how it affects people, our economy and the environment.

In the 113th Congress, the Committee, and its five Subcommittees, will continue to pursue aggressive oversight of the Executive Branch. Through oversight hearings and investigations the Committee will focus its oversight efforts on promoting job creation and economic growth, reducing spending and ensuring responsible use of taxpayer resources, and protecting public access to public lands and waters for recreation and economic development.

This oversight plan outlines the initial, primary focuses of the Committee and Subcommittees, though additional oversight activities are expected to be generated throughout the first and second sessions of the 113th Congress.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Job Creation through All-of-the-above Energy Production—The Subcommittee will focus on the importance of increasing all-of-the-above domestic energy production in order to create new high-paying jobs and increase our economic competitiveness. In February 2010, the Department of the Interior released a jobs report that showed that 1.4 million Americans were employed in jobs related to programs and activities of the Department. Nearly half the jobs identified in the report were related to oil, natural gas and mining activities on federal lands, and yet those activities only occupy a small fraction of the total lands managed by the Department. Over the next two years, the Subcommittee will focus on efforts to create jobs, and subsequently fight job destruction, and flight of capital from the federal lands states as a result of changes in Departmental policies.

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Natural Gas—The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the administration of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OSCLA) and will work to ensure safe and responsible production of America's offshore oil and natural gas resources. The Subcommittee will build upon oversight and legislative efforts pursed last Congress to reform the Offshore Planning Process, direct specific offshore lease sales, codify the reorganization of the former MMS, and promote new safety efforts.

Federal Budget and Spending—The Subcommittee jurisdiction covers five Interior Department Agencies and programs within two others: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Bureau of Safety, Environment and Enforcement (BSEE), Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and the energy and minerals programs of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The Subcommittee will examine each of these agencies for opportunities to streamline, reduce costs, and either close or consolidate outdated programs. The Subcommittee will particularly focus on those programs that have seen significant growth over the last few budget cycles or sudden significant spikes in funding as a result of Departmental decisions.

Onshore Oil and Natural Gas Programs—In the 113th Congress the Subcommittee will focus on the state of oil and natural gas leasing on federal lands in the western United States. This will include leasing delays and declines in production from federal lands, reforms to streamline onshore energy leasing and permitting, development of oil shale resources, access and leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA), and access to ANWR. This Congress there will be additional oversight on Alaskan oil and natural gas development by reviewing NPRA administrative reforms and an in depth review of the Administration's regulation of hydraulic fracturing.

Renewable and Alternative Energy—In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight over current solar, geothermal and wind programs operated by the BLM and USFS and examine steps necessary to speed the deployment of these technologies on federal lands. There will also be focus on the status of renewable energy of federal lands after four years of inaction through planning by the Administration. In 2010, the first federal lease for offshore wind was issued in the federal waters of Nantucket Sound and since then only 1 other non-competitive lease has been issued (Oct 2012, offshore Delaware) and not a single OCS Lease sale has been held. The Subcommittee will examine what steps if any are needed to help streamline the leasing and permitting of new wind facilities on the OCS to ensure that companies and others interested in promoting OCS wind resources are not delayed by federal bureaucratic red tape. Although there have been a handful of permitted projects, onshore solar development has been stymied by a multi-year effort to identify solar energy zones that many feel are not conducive to solar energy development. The finalization of these zones in late 2012 left many wondering what the path forward will be for onshore solar projects that are not in zones, how new zones will be established and if development in the zones will

be competitive. The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight on the status of domestic geothermal development.

National Mineral Security Strategy—The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on domestic mineral resources, current and planned production, and possible future production opportunities, including of critical minerals.

Coal Mining Regulations and Leasing—The Administration and Department of the Interior continue to wage a war on coal. The Subcommittee has conducted and will continue extensive oversight of the job-destroying regulatory changes, such as the Stream Buffer Zone Rule, proposed by the Administration to stifle coal mining, production and use. Both the Subcommittee and Full Committee will focus on this issue through both legislative relief and aggressive oversight.

United States Geological Survey—The Subcommittee for several years has had growing concern over the path and programs operated by the USGS. Particularly of concern are the growing non-resource or hazard programs at USGS and other Department programs; USGS data quality dependence on outside data; mineral and energy programs focused on stopping mineral development not promoting it; and mapping programs. The Subcommittee intends to closely examine the current operations of USGS and may consider legislation to consolidate and streamline the focus of the agency to reduce waste and duplication not only in the USGS but across agencies.

Federal Mapping Programs—The federal government spends billions each year on new geospatial data. This spending, including tens of billions in the stimulus act, is frequently wasteful, duplicative and uncoordinated. During hearings last year, witnesses were clear that multiple Administrations have had this problem with little control, central oversight or effective management. The Subcommittee intends to reexamine this issue and may consider legislation to consolidate and streamline the Department's geospatial programs to reduce waste and duplication. In addition, the Subcommittee intends to conduct oversight of federal agencies and how they track and monitor their land management responsibilities and purposes.

SUBCOMMITTEE OF FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, OCEANS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

Budget Review—The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the budgets of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Insular Affairs, within the Department of the Interior and the National Marine Fisheries Service, and certain "wet" programs of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, within the Department of Commerce. The Subcommittee will examine how the more than $500 million provided to these agencies in the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 will be spent to repair damages caused by Hurricane Sandy. In addition, how these funds will affect the operations and maintenance backlog of these agencies. According to FWS, the backlog for their 560 refuges now exceeds $3.4 billion and there are more than 12,000 deferred projects. Subcommittee will resume its oversight of this growing backlog and will continue to inquire why FWS is committed to acquire an ever increasing

amount of private land while doing an increasingly poor job of managing what they already own.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species—The Subcommittee will continue its oversight role in monitoring the Administration's implementation of proposals which may be adopted by the Convention at the upcoming 16th Conference of the Parties.

Invasive Species—Thousands of acres of public land in the United States are overgrown by invasive species. These foreign invaders are destroying valuable infrastructure, preventing recreational opportunities and are costing federal taxpayers millions of lost dollars. During the last Congress, the Subcommittee conducted several hearings on invasive species and intends to continue examining ways to effectively address the problems caused by non-native species.

Lacey Act—The Subcommittee will conduct a series of comprehensive oversight hearings on various provisions that have been added to this federal law since its original enactment in 1900. Among the issues to be examined are: why are American citizens required to comply with foreign laws, why individuals are denied "innocent owner" protections under the Lacey Act and what has been the impact of the Legal Timber Protection Act of 2008.

Public Access within the National Wildlife Refuge System—During the past two years, the Subcommittee was contacted by several Representatives concerning development of specific Comprehensive Conservation Plans for refuges, which are required by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. In some instances, these plans became controversial and had the potential to negatively impact public access for anglers, hunters and recreationists.

Refuge Revenue Sharing—In 1935, Congress enacted the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act. The purpose of this law was to compensate local communities for the loss of tax revenues when private land is incorporated within the National Wildlife Refuge System. For the past 15 years, the amount of money paid to the counties, known as entitlement payments, has decreased from 77 percent to about 30 percent of their payments.

Sikes Act—The Department of Defense controls nearly 30 million acres of fish and wildlife habitat at nearly 400 military installations. The Subcommittee is interested in obtaining an update of the Department's conservation efforts, whether additional opportunities are being provided to disabled sportsmen as mandated by Public Law 105–261 and the status of efforts to require Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans for State-owned National Guard facilities.

General Oversight of the Office of Insular Affairs—The Subcommittee expects to review the fundamental issues facing each of the territories and freely associated states: support and development of self-government and self-determination; economic development and self-sufficiency through the private sector; accountability of federal funds; implementation and enforcement of federal laws; implementation and funding for the Compacts of Free Association; and management of limited land and water resources.

Puerto Rico—On November 6, 2012, 1.8 million residents of Puerto Rico voted for Governor, Resident Commissioner, members of

their legislature, and vote on a two-part status plebiscite. On the first question, ballots were cast on whether they wished to retain their current political status. For the second question, residents voted to choose a new status—Free Association with the United States, independence or statehood. The results of the plebiscite vote and what it means in terms of Puerto Rico's future political status will be carefully examined.

National Ocean Council and Ocean Zoning—Through an Executive Order, the White House created a new National Ocean Council (NOC) and a structure for a new Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning initiative, otherwise known as ocean zoning. The Subcommittee will examine the authority used to create this entity and initiative, what sources of funding will be used, what authorities this new entity will have, and what effect any new policy initiatives from the NOC will have on other departments and agencies.

Marine Debris—Marine debris is an ongoing and increasing problem for coastal areas due to various natural events. Congress amended the NOAA marine debris program in P.L. 112–213. The Subcommittee will examine this issue and implementation of the NOAA program.

International Fisheries Agreements and International Compliance—The U.S. has taken aggressive action to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing practices both through domestic regulation and international negotiations. In addition to numerous international fisheries treaties already in existence, a number of new treaties and agreements have recently been negotiated to ensure compliance of vessels fishing on the high seas. The need for such treaties and whether implementation legislation is necessary will be examined.

Fishery Restrictions Resulting From Protected Resources Designations—There are a number of fisheries which currently are or will be restricted due to interactions or perceived interactions with protected animals. In many cases, the scientific information being used to implement the restrictions is either incomplete or outdated. Because the agency has diverted funding from gathering the information necessary to adequately manage the natural resources under their jurisdiction, the agency is causing job losses and economic hardships for coastal and fishery-dependent communities. The Subcommittee will examine a number of specific instances.

Fisheries Strategic Research Plan—In recent years, NOAA has proposed the creation of a number of new line offices or initiatives. At the same time, funding for basic fisheries and marine mammal surveys necessary to support management of the Nation's fishery resources have remained inadequate. As surveys are postponed or cut, the confidence in the stock assessments decline causing harvest levels to be cut resulting in job losses and economic stress on fishery dependent communities. The Subcommittee will examine the agency's long-term commitment to the harvest of fishery resources and the research necessary to ensure the sustainability of those resources and those who depend on those resources.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

Budget and Spending Review—The Subcommittee will review the budget request and staffing levels for the Bureau of Indian Affairs,

Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, and other Departments, offices and functions relating to Indian and Alaska Native affairs.

Federal Barriers to Economic and Energy Development on Indian lands—Certain federal laws and policies governing public lands are applied to lands held in trust or restricted status for tribes and individual Indians. For example, the Interior Department's proposed rule regarding hydraulic fracturing in the production of oil and gas resources treats lands held for the exclusive use and benefit of Indians as though they belong to the public. The Subcommittee will review whether it is appropriate to apply public land laws to Indian lands in the manner proposed by the Obama Administration.

Land Buyback—The Claims Resolution Act of 2010 provided for a one-time direct appropriation of $1.9 billion to Department of the Interior for the consolidation of highly fractionated Indian land, pursuant to the Indian Lands Consolidation Act. The Subcommittee will exercise its duty to review the operation of the land consolidation program and hold the Administration accountable for the expenditure of this sum of money.

Fee-to-Trust Issues—The 2009 Supreme Court decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar* was one of the most significant judicial actions concerning Indian lands and tribal recognition since 1934. The Department of the Interior has failed to cooperate with the Subcommittee in identifying a potential resolution. For example, the Department refuses to divulge which tribes and lands are affected by *Carcieri.* This obstructs potential bipartisan legislative action to reform and improve the process of acquiring lands for Indians in a balanced manner that reflects contemporary land use and ownership among tribal and non-Indian communities in 21st century America. The Department's actions to date have all but invited expensive litigation, confusion, and delays in the fee-to-trust process. In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will review the Department's actions to assist Members to determine an appropriate course of action to update fee-to-trust policy.

Alaska Natives—The Subcommittee will review the implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other laws pertaining to Alaska Natives (including the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980).

Natural Resources Management on Indian Reservations—The Department of the Interior holds approximately 56 million acres of land in trust or restricted status for tribes and individual Indians. The Subcommittee will review current law, policy, and agency action concerning these resources in furtherance of the goal of increasing tribal self-governance and economic development opportunities for the benefit of Native Americans. The Subcommittee may focus on the implementation of the HEARTH Act of 2012 and on the Department's recent revision of surface leasing rules affecting Indian trust and restricted lands.

Indian Country Law and Order—The Subcommittee plans to review the implementation and impact of provisions of the Tribal Law and Order Act that fall under the jurisdiction of the Committee. In addition, the Subcommittee will review federal policies and actions (and inaction) concerning safety, crime prevention, and law enforcement in Indian Country.

Indian Health Care Improvement Act Implementation / Indian Health Service—In the 113th Congress the Subcommittee may review implementation of Indian health care, with a focus on the delivery of medical services to Indian people, particularly those in remote reservations where access to health care is difficult and costly.

Tribal Recognition—Since the 1960's the Secretary of the Interior has granted recognition to tribes even though some experts and tribes have noted that such recognition was made without authorization from Congress. For example, the Bureau of Indian Affairs regulatory process for extending recognition to new tribes, found in Part 83 of the Code of Federal Regulations, was established by the Department without authorization from Congress. Recent Departmental actions concerning the recognition of tribes have stirred controversy. The Department administratively "reaffirmed" the recognition of a tribe that had not been named on any list of tribes recognized pursuant to treaty or statute. The Department has refused to invoke any legal defense on behalf of the United States in lawsuits filed by certain groups seeking tribal recognition where new casinos appear to be at stake. Because the power to recognize a tribe is a solemn action that grants special political status on the tribe's members, the Subcommittee may conduct a thorough overview of recognizing new tribes.

Indian Gaming—According to the National Indian Gaming Commission, in 2011 the Indian gaming industry generated $27.2 billion in revenues. This is nearly triple the $9.8 billion in revenues generated in 1999. Indian gaming is inextricably linked with fee-to-trust and recognition and therefore it may be addressed in the context of the Committee's review of recognition and fee-to-trust (including Carcieri) issues described above. In addition, the Subcommittee in the 113th Congress may conduct hearings specifically on gaming to ensure that appropriate enforcement and oversight by the National Indian Gaming Commission, Department of the Interior, and Department of Justice is being conducted.

Tax Policy—Last year the Subcommittee held an oversight hearing concerning inconsistent and unauthorized tax policies imposed by the Obama Administration on Indians. It was revealed that the Obama Administration IRS sought to tax per capita certain distributions made to individual Indians by their tribes. The distributions in question are those derived from tribal development of natural resources—especially timber—on tribes' trust lands. Imposition of the tax is contrary to congressional intent under the Per Capita Act, to precedent, and to common sense. At the same time the Administration sought to tax trust per capita distributions, the IRS issued a guidance notice effectively waiving taxation of private per capita distributions made by around 50 tribes that settled lawsuits with the Obama Administration. Distributions made by tribes from private accounts are ordinarily subject to taxation. At the hearing, the IRS—under intense questioning—verbally noted that it would relinquish its attempt to tax the trust per capita distributions. Oversight of IRS tax policy will continue in an effort to seek clear written guidance to ensure correct compliance with the letter and spirit of the Per Capita Act.

Tribal Trust Settlements—The Subcommittee may review the negotiation and settlement of lawsuits against the United States filed by more than 100 Indian tribes. The basis of the lawsuits, filed under previous Administrations, was that the United States mismanaged trust lands and trust accounts of Indian tribes in violation of the government's statutory obligations. In 2012, more than 50 tribal lawsuits were settled by the Administration for approximately $1 billion. Dozens more may be settled during the remainder of the Administration. The Committee is interested in ensuring that the settlements are fair and just for tribes and taxpayers.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Budget and Spending—The Subcommittee will review the Fiscal Year 2014 budget request for programs under its jurisdiction.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)—The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the implementation of the law and on NEPA's effectiveness in achieving the purposes for which it was enacted.

Strengthening the Core National Park Functions of Stewardship, Visitor Experience and Maintenance of Park Facilities—The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on ways to ensure that budget constraints, should they occur, do not fall on the traditional National Park Service visitor services and property maintenance portion of their budget.

New Parks—Proposals for additional parks and park expansions will be examined with due regard for the merits of the proposal, spending constraints, our national need for access to vital resources, and the protection of private property rights.

National Park Management—The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on ways to reduce the maintenance backlog and enhance public enjoyment of the parks.

Wilderness Designations and Releases—The Subcommittee will examine proposals for additional wilderness designations as well as proposals for the release of areas found not suitable for wilderness designation.

Forest Health and Wildfires—The Subcommittee will conduct oversight hearings on forest health and wildfire prevention and suppression.

County Payments and School Funding—The Subcommittee will pursue changes to replace the current uncertain and diminishing funding by creating a more sustainable and reliable program.

National Forest Recreation—Oversight will be conducted on ways to strengthen public access to National Forests for a wide range of family recreational and sporting activities and that fees for use of developed sites are not excessive.

Management of BLM Land—The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on ways to ensure that traditional uses such as grazing are permitted in an efficient and fair manner.

Strengthening the Role Our Vast System of BLM lands Can Contribute to Economic Growth, National Security, and Sound Conservation—Oversight will be conducted on ways to ensure that our public lands provide secure domestic sources of energy, food, fiber, minerals, jobs and recreation under appropriate conservation standards.

Checks and Balances—The Subcommittee will examine administratively imposed activities and designations to ensure that these actions fully respect the interests and culture of the affected local people and do not infringe on authorities that more properly belong to elected officials in Congress and local government.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Budget and Spending Review—At a time of growing water supply needs, water-use conflicts, curtailment of water and power deliveries due to federal regulation and a spiraling national debt, the Subcommittee intends to examine the Bureau of Reclamation's and the U.S. Geological Survey's annual budget request and ongoing spending. The goal of such oversight is to determine whether the agencies are accountable to the American taxpayers, water and power ratepayers and other beneficiaries and to ascertain whether they are fulfilling their core missions.

Oversight of the Power Marketing Administration Budgets—The four Power Marketing Administrations sell hydropower generated at federal dams and reservoirs to wholesale customers that serve millions of retail electricity customers. In many cases, these energy prices have increased or the supply has significantly decreased due to a number of factors. The Subcommittee will examine the reasons for the price increases, whether these agencies are reducing internal costs to mitigate for such increases and if they are fulfilling their historical energy delivery missions to traditional customers. In particular, the Subcommittee and the Full Committee will continue its oversight of Energy Secretary Steven Chu's far-reaching 2012 Memorandum to the Power Marketing Administrators.

Protecting and Promoting Hydropower as a Clean, Renewable Energy Source—Litigating interests and regulatory efforts undermine existing hydropower resources and curtail the growth of new hydropower. The Subcommittee will examine these efforts and ways to protect and promote large-scale and small-scale hydropower generation at existing and potential facilities.

Increasing Traditional Water Supplies—Visionary leaders developed much of the western water supply infrastructure that urban and rural communities have depended upon for generations. These existing water storage and delivery projects continue to serve millions of ratepayers and food consumers nationwide, but their operations are being curtailed by endless litigation and agencies bent upon rationing water supplies. The Subcommittee will focus on the need to protect existing water storage/conveyance facilities and also examine and overcome regulatory, financial and other barriers to building new ones as a way of returning to a policy of abundance.

Water Project Financing—The Subcommittee intends to analyze different types of water projects to determine the most cost-effective approach to providing new water supplies and other benefits. This examination, when necessary, will include but not be limited to a determination of project's purposes, cost per acre foot, water and non-water benefits and the current process used to determine cost/benefit ratios.

Returning to the "Beneficiary Pays" Principle—Recent efforts to integrate wind and solar resources into the electricity grid can have impacts on existing water and power users who do not benefit from

such integration. The Subcommittee intends to examine the impacts of integration schemes, including those by the Western Area Power Administration.

Maintaining Electricity Transmission/Distribution Service on Federal Lands—Energy rights of way on federal lands have a direct impact on electricity transmission and distribution systems. Vegetative management on these rights-of-way is an issue in some areas of the western United States. The Subcommittee intends to examine these matters as it relates to electricity reliability and catastrophic forest fire prevention.

FULL COMMITTEE

The Full Committee will conduct oversight on a variety of topics in coordination with the Subcommittees, as well as on specific jurisdictional items that reside at the Full Committee level. These Full Committee jurisdictional matters include:

Endangered Species Act—Congress last renewed the ESA in 1988, which means it has been 24 years since any substantial updates have been made. Of the 1,401 domestic animal and plant species listed under the Act, just 20 species have been declared recovered—representing only a 1 percent recovery rate. The law is failing to achieve its primary purpose of recovering endangered species. The Committee will continue to examine both the strengths and weaknesses of the law to make it work better for both species and people. The Committee will also continue to focus on how litigation and close-door settlement agreements impede recovery efforts and cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Reauthorization—The Magnuson-Stevens Act is the primary statue regulating commercial and recreational fishing in federal waters. The Act was last reauthorized in the 109th Congress and a number of issues related to the reauthorization were examined by the Committee in the 112th Congress. The Committee will continue this work to reauthorize the Act in the 113th Congress.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

OVERSIGHT PLAN

Rule X, Clause 2(d) of the Rules of the House requires each standing committee of the House to adopt and submit a two-year oversight plan to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration by February 15 of the first session of each Congress.

The following is the oversight plan for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for the 113th Congress and its subcommittees. It details subjects designated for investigation, evaluation, and review by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, but does not preclude oversight or investigation of other matters as the need arises.

Below are descriptions of some of the issues the Committee intends to investigate during the 113th Congress. The list is not exhaustive, but highlights significant areas for Committee oversight. The Committee will retain the flexibility to investigate emerging abuses and other issues as appropriate.

WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE AND MISMANAGEMENT

The Committee intends to redouble its efforts concerning its oversight of waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement of federal government spending. For too many years the Washington establishment has turned a blind eye to repeated waste and mismanagement in federal spending. Although the GAO, agency IG's, and whistleblowers alike continue to sound alarms concerning massive waste in federal spending, Administrations and Congresses often fail to address the issue head on. The Committee's oversight will cover all federal government departments, agencies and programs with an eye toward solutions to eliminate wasteful spending. Many of the following sections address specific areas where the Committee has an opportunity to make an immediate difference by addressing problematic agencies and programs. Furthermore, the Committee plans to offer legislative proposals that go at the heart of this issue by positively addressing the issue of waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement.

FINANCIAL SECTOR

The Committee will continue oversight of the financial sector, focusing on those regulatory agencies whose failures were implicated in the financial crisis and those agencies that were created, or saw their powers expanded, by the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010. The Committee will monitor financial regulators' management, technological initiatives and rulemaking, with a view towards promoting capital

formation, predictable and efficient markets, and investor protection.

The Committee will monitor the work of the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) and the Office of Financial Research (OFR).

Key topics for oversight include the need for technology-driven transparency in financial regulatory filings so that markets can quickly digest crucial information, management and communications challenges at key agencies, including the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act.

The Committee will continue to review the administration of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), including the implementation of recommendations made by the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP). The Committee will also monitor the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) and other loss mitigation programs.

The Committee will conduct oversight of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and their regulator, the Federal Housing Finance Agency. The Committee will further explore the risks to taxpayers associated with the role of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and government housing policies and will work to ensure that additional taxpayer money is spent efficiently and effectively.

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Reserve, including its use of non-traditional quantitative easing techniques and the financial risks associated with its growing portfolio of assets.

The Committee will continue to monitor the SEC's implementation of the JOBS Act.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, focusing on the Bureau's management, budget, operations, rulemakings, and enforcement actions.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Committee will continue to oversee consumer protection efforts across the federal government. As a part of this oversight, the Committee will examine the regulatory and enforcement actions of the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The Committee will also examine the national foreclosure crisis, including allegations of wrongful foreclosure and other abuses by mortgage servicing companies. The Committee will continue to monitor the work of several federal agencies—including the Department of Justice, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Reserve Board, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency—in addressing and responding to allegations of foreclosure abuse.

THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

In February 2013, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) will issue its biannual High Risk report, which identifies government programs that are particularly vulnerable to waste, fraud and abuse. The Committee will provide ongoing oversight of agencies

and programs included on the High Risk list by holding hearings, meeting with agency officials responsible for included programs, and monitoring agencies' corrective plans and actions.

In 2010, Congress required GAO to begin conducting "routine investigations to identify programs, agencies, offices, and initiatives with duplicative goals and activities within Departments and government-wide and report annually to Congress on the findings." In the 112th Congress, the GAO issued its first two reports under this provision in February 2011 and February 2012. The Committee held hearings on both of the reports and will continue to monitor GAO's findings to determine areas of federal activity that are duplicative and inefficient.

INSPECTORS GENERAL

During 2011, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) community identified potential savings in Executive Branch departments and agencies totaling almost $93.9 billion. Based on the OIG community's aggregate FY 2011 budget of approximately $2.7 billion, these potential savings represent approximately a $35 return on every dollar invested in the OIGs. The Committee will continue to support the IGs' efforts to control spending in order to promote a more efficient and effective government.

Continuing its work from the 111th Congress, the Committee sent letters to 73 IGs in April 2011, and again in April 2012, requesting an update regarding thousands of open and unimplemented recommendations that have the potential to save taxpayers billions. The Committee then compiled four years' worth of data provided by the IGs based on their responses. If implemented, the IGs' recommendations would save taxpayers billions of dollars.

After working with the legislative committee of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), the Committee sent a letter in August 2012 to Inspectors General clarifying its expectation that they will communicate serious or flagrant instances of waste, fraud and abuse to Congress promptly. With the GSA conference spending scandal in mind, the Chairman explained that the seven-day letter should not be the only means for communicating serious or flagrant problems to Congress.

In December 2012, the Chairman and Ranking Member sent a joint letter to 73 IGs requesting both their short-term and long-term high priority recommendations for controlling spending. The Committee will review the responses received to identify improvements and reforms that can benefit a large number of federal government programs.

The Committee understands the value of an empowered community of IGs and is committed to protecting IGs who aggressively root out waste, fraud, and abuse through audits and investigations. Recognizing the importance of the role of the IG at each agency, in November 2012, the Committee began an inquiry into possible IG interference at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Committee will continue to conduct oversight to ensure the independence and effectiveness of the IG community.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Committee will examine federal financial management. This review will include compliance with financial management and accounting laws, as well as the security and reliability of federal financial systems. The Committee will also focus on agency efforts to reduce improper payments and achieve a clean government-wide audit.

The Department of Defense (DoD) is the only federal agency that did not undergo an audit in FY 2011. Because the size of DoD's budget makes it a material part of the Federal Government's total spending, the United States has never passed an audit of its financial statements. The Committee will focus on overseeing DoD's financial management processes and its steps to become fully auditable.

The Federal Government's statements of social insurance (SOSI) also did not pass an audit in FY 2012 or FY 2011. According to the SOSI for FY 2012, the Federal Government will owe $38.6 trillion in excess of future revenues for Medicare, Social Security Insurance, and Railroad Retirement over the next 75 years. Actual cost may be higher because of GAO's disclaimer of opinion on the SOSI. The disclaimer was because the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) estimate of Medicare spending may be misrepresented due to certain potential savings in the program that have not been realized. The Committee will review spending for social insurance and HHS's methodology for calculating future payments.

This Committee will further investigate improper payments distributed by federal agencies. Under the 2002 Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA), federal agencies are required to annually review all programs and activities to identify those entities susceptible to significant improper payments. For FY 2011, improper payments totaled $108 billion.

FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY DISPOSAL

Since 2003, federal real property management has been on the GAO High Risk list. The Government holds thousands of unneeded properties and spends hundreds of millions on upkeep and maintenance of those properties. A June 2010 Presidential Memorandum on property disposal directed OMB to develop guidance that would include agency-specific targets to achieve $3 billion in cost savings. The Committee intends to examine what progress has been made toward this goal, and to consider changes that could be made to the Federal Real Property and Administrative Services Act that would expedite real property disposal.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

Controlling federal government contract spending is critically important. The cost of contracting has more than doubled in the last decade, increasing from $223 billion to $534.9 billion between FY 2001 to FY 2010. These amounts reflect exorbitant expenditures on management support services, information technology systems development, program management, and engineering. In the last two years, the Administration has taken steps to reduce waste in contracting. The Committee will seek to ensure that controlling spend-

ing does not have a negative impact on contract oversight and administration. To that end, the Committee will continue to investigate waste, fraud, and abuse in federal contracting.

The Committee will continue to monitor the Administration's use of civil and criminal remedies to address instances of wrongdoing. Transparency at the point of contract award and throughout the life cycle of the federal contract can go far to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. Additionally, the Committee will focus special attention on transparency relating to past performance and contract oversight concerns. The Committee will review federal contractor ethics and disclosure requirements, as well as the proper role of contracting for preferences and set-aside programs for small and disadvantaged businesses.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of contracting issues associated with the transition of responsibilities from the Defense Department to the State Department in Iraq, as well as oversight of contracting in Afghanistan to prevent corruption.

GRANT REFORM

The Committee intends to examine the efficiency, fairness, and transparency of agency grant-making processes. The Committee will examine federal efforts to reform and streamline the grant process across multiple federal agencies. The Committee will investigate allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse in the grants process within specific federal agencies and examine efforts to adopt consistent government-wide policies for grants applications and reporting.

SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT

The federal government spends over $1.1 trillion on contracts and grants annually. Despite Congressional oversight efforts, GAO has determined that there are serious weaknesses in the suspension & debarment (S&D) programs of numerous agencies. This has resulted in the awarding of federal funds to companies, organizations and individuals which should have been prevented from receiving such funds, including those with criminal convictions, federal tax liabilities, or terrorist ties. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight to promote efficiency, transparency, and accountability of the S&D activities, including the effective management of the government-wide S&D database.

OPEN GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

The Committee will continue to advocate technological solutions to achieve government transparency. Broadly speaking, the Committee will seek to ensure that the federal government's information—with a few well-defined exceptions, such as national security—is made available online and that it is formatted in ways that facilitate easy access and analysis. The Committee will evaluate possible legislation to set policy goals for technology-driven transparency for federal spending, program performance, regulatory materials, and legislative documents. The Committee will also examine public access to information through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), examine the implementation of other open govern-

ment laws, such as the Presidential Records Act and the Federal Advisory Committees Act, and consider whether any statutory mandates may impede public access to information.

The Committee will continue to investigate the persistent challenges and failures associated with the preservation of presidential and federal records, as required by law. Dating back to the Clinton Administration, changes in technology have challenged each subsequent administration's ability to capture, manage, and preserve the growing and diverse volume of electronic records. Despite new policies intended to improve transparency, concerns that problems remain have been raised. The Committee intends to examine the challenges created by the use of personal email and new, innovative forms of communication such as social media.

The Committee will focus on compliance with FOIA. The Committee will monitor implementation of the memorandum issued by the President on January 21, 2009, reinstating the presumption of disclosure. The Committee will also examine implementation of the OPEN Government Act of 2007 and the Electronic FOIA Amendments of 1996.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Federal agencies spent $74 billion in fiscal year 2012 buying, operating and maintaining information technology products, services, and systems. Many of these systems fail to provide the productivity gains expected, or worse, simply fail. The Committee will review the federal government's information technology procurement and management policies to ensure that taxpayers are getting the maximum return for their money. The Committee will closely monitor the executive branch's efforts to stop IT projects that are not on target and streamline those that are wasteful.

The Committee will also review the impact of federal IT mandates under laws such as the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), the E-Government Act of 2002 and the Clinger-Cohen Act. The Committee will seek input from the front lines of procurement and implementation to determine whether these mandates have improved data security, public access, and IT enterprise planning—and at what cost.

The Committee will monitor and conduct oversight of federal agency information security practices that are required under FISMA and OMB guidelines in this area. The Committee will examine and evaluate privacy and security practices used by agencies to ensure privacy of confidential data.

FEDERAL REGULATION AND THE REGULATORY PROCESS

While federal regulations are necessary to effectively implement the laws that Congress passes to protect human health, consumers, and the environment, federal regulations can also impose significant burdens on job creators. The Committee will place special emphasis on oversight of federal regulations to ensure that regulations minimize unnecessary burdens on small businesses, job creation, economic growth, and competitiveness.

The Committee will also evaluate agency rulemakings to ensure that agencies do not exceed their regulatory authority and adhere to the requirements embodied in executive order and statute when

developing a regulation. This includes evaluating whether a rule is developed in an open and transparent manner, allowing adequate time for the public to participate in a meaningful way. It also includes scrutinizing practices that avoid typical rulemaking requirements, such as the issuance of guidance, interim final rulemakings, and settlement agreements. In addition, the Committee will focus on the role of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in agency rulemakings to ensure that it carries out its regulatory duties in a timely manner.

Finally, the Committee will examine the impact of unfunded mandates on state and local governments, and private entities, and explore ways to potentially enhance the effectiveness of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

ENERGY

The Committee will examine the state of U.S. energy transportation infrastructure, particularly oil and gas pipelines. Inadequate capacity has created major bottlenecks and forced producers to transport domestic oil and gas via such inefficient means as rail and truck. The convoluted system of pipeline permitting and regulation—involving agencies as varied as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of State, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission—is a contributing factor to network incapacity.

The Committee will review the Department of Energy's decisions to issue or withhold permits for the exportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG). The Natural Gas Act of 1938 compels DOE to approve an export terminal if it is "consistent with the public interest." The Committee will work to ensure that DOE takes a full accounting of the economic impacts of LNG exportation.

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Administration's efforts to regulate the practice of hydraulic fracturing, which has been regulated by the States for decades. The Committee will also conduct oversight of EPA's ongoing study of the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water.

The Committee will review the Administration's decision to fast track certain renewable energy projects, such as the Bureau of Land Management's list of "Active Priority Renewable Energy Projects.

The "fiscal cliff" deal extended the wind energy Production Tax Credit (PTC) for one year. The Committee will assess the costs and benefits of this tax credit focusing on the appropriateness of the PTC in light of record federal deficits, and the full costs of wind energy production. The Committee will also examine the tax treatment of other forms of energy production.

The Committee will examine the Administration's policies toward energy production on federal lands and waters. The Committee will also examine the impacts of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process.

The Committee will continue its broad investigation of the Department of Energy's loan guarantee programs.

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee will continue to take an active role in overseeing the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) implementation of

the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. As in the previous Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight of these matters with a focus on agency process, adequate economic analysis of proposed rules, and cumulative impact analysis. Further, the Committee will determine the impacts these rules have on the health, safety and economic well being of American families, job creation, and electricity generation.

HEALTH CARE AND ENTITLEMENTS

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government entitlement programs, with special attention to Medicaid and Medicare. The Committee will continue to focus on problems at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, seeking to minimize the amount of taxpayer money misspent through Medicare and Medicaid.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight related to the budgetary and economic impact of America's entitlement programs as well as options that would increase choice in health care markets and lower the health care cost curve. The Committee will also conduct oversight related to the increase in federal entitlement programs, with a focus on waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement within those programs.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Specifically, the Committee will focus on bringing transparency to the federal government's increased role in health care markets and in particular whether policies reduce consumer choice and increase insurance premiums. The Committee will continue to closely examine regulations promulgated through authority given to the Secretary of HHS in PPACA and executive branch actions to ensure that they are consistent with the law.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including the balance that FDA places between the availability and safety of drugs and medical devices. The Committee will examine the causes and effects of shortages in critical pharmaceutical drugs.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Committee will continue to review the District's use of federal education funds authorized under the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act. As part of a three-sector approach to education reform in D.C., this law authorizes funding to the city for education improvement measures for its traditional and charter public schools, as well as providing scholarships to low-income students so they can attend a private school of their choice. The Committee will continue to exercise oversight of its implementation. In addition, the Committee will make certain there is a robust and comprehensive evaluation conducted to ensure the law is fulfilling its mandated purpose.

The Committee will continue to review the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). WMATA has experienced numerous problems relating to customer safety and Metrorail accidents over the past several years. While WMATA has publicly committed itself to taking the necessary steps to address oper-

ational and safety deficiencies, routine and rigorous oversight of the agency remains warranted.

The Committee will review the 1910 "Building Heights Act," which regulates the height of structures in the city. New technology, city planning, and economic development proposals are all factors that may lead to easing this century old law.

CENSUS

The Committee will begin to review the process by which the 2020 Decennial Census will be conducted, its level of accuracy, and the appropriateness of the level of expenditures that are expected to be incurred. The successful planning of the 2020 Decennial Census will determine the level of funding in 2018, 2019, and 2020, the years which consume the most funding for the Census Bureau. The Committee will also review the non-decennial operations of the Census Bureau to determine if there can be savings through better efficiencies. The Committee will also seek to determine if the Bureau's data collection activities are overly broad and still serve the people in the appropriate manner.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND FEDERAL RECORDS

In October 2010, GAO released two reports highlighting failures at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The Committee will conduct oversight of NARA's management of government records and the procedures NARA is putting in place to handle and archive records generated by new technologies, including social media.

The Committee will examine the Presidential Library system, specifically looking at the governance of the Presidential Libraries, how the foundations interact with NARA, and how the foundations and NARA coordinate and cooperate to fulfill the mission of the Presidential Library system.

GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AND THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

Current challenges facing the executive branch, coupled with the deficit, require a new approach to government. The Committee will examine the major structural and organizational issues that have failed to alleviate, or have caused or exacerbated, government waste and redundancy. The Committee will continue its work to bring more balance to the federal personnel system, and better align worker compensation with the private sector. Performance management will be part of the Committee's review. The Committee will also look to ensure the size and composition of the federal workforce are driven by critical needs.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

The United States Postal Service (USPS) lost $15.9 billion in FY 2012 and may face insolvency if significant reforms are not implemented. USPS has also already defaulted on $11.1 billion in payments to the U.S. Treasury to fund the costs of retiree health care.

GAO added USPS's financial condition to its high-risk list in 2009 and since then has been a major proponent of reform. To that end, GAO has stated: "we continue to believe that major restruc-

turing is necessary and not doing so will increase the risk that taxpayers and the U.S. Treasury will have to provide financial relief."

Since FY 2006, USPS mail volume has declined by more than 25 percent, with the greatest decline in its most profitable product, First-Class Mail. Persistent, ongoing declines in mail volume are now projected for the foreseeable future as electronic communication increasingly supplants paper based communication. As a result of these mail volume declines, USPS has seen its annual revenue decline by $10 billion from its peak in FY 2008 and USPS is now losing $25 million per day. Additionally, for the first time in its history, USPS reached its statutory debt limit in September 2012 and expects to have less than 4 days worth of liquidity by the end of FY 2013.

The Committee will examine actions and plans USPS is taking to preserve universal service, avoid insolvency, and prevent a taxpayer bailout. The Committee will also pursue the enactment of substantive postal reform legislation, building on the proposals found in the reform bill the Committee reported during the 112th Congress, H.R. 2309. To assist in its efforts, the Committee will continue to work with USPS, the Government Accountability Office, and other experts on the Postal Service.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

The Committee's unique interagency jurisdiction allows the examination of the effectiveness, efficiency and cooperation of all U.S. Government agencies and departments involved in national security and foreign operations issues.

The Committee will conduct oversight of policies affecting the safety and security of U.S. government personnel and facilities abroad. The Committee's oversight will include, but not be limited to, U.S. Department of State and U.S Department of Defense policies.

The Committee's oversight of U.S. diplomatic, military, and development efforts in the CENTCOM area of responsibility will also include, but not be limited to: investigations of the training and equipping of the Afghan National Security Forces; the efficiency, accountability and efficacy of a variety of development and reconstruction efforts, including the use of private contractors; the capacity of various U.S. Government agencies and departments to carry on needed activities in Afghanistan; and the State Department's diplomatic mission in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Committee will evaluate the need for interagency reform and elimination of waste, fraud, and abuse among the various U.S. national security agencies, departments, and foreign aid organizations. The Committee's oversight will include, but not be limited to review of U.S. military combatant commands, especially AFRICOM, SOUTHCOM, U.S. Agency for International Development, and U.S. Institute of Peace, State Department.

The Committee will conduct oversight of U.S. diplomatic, military, and development efforts to address the issue of global terrorism both in the short-term and long-term. The oversight will include whether the United States is maximizing the use of all elements of the national security power and how anti-terror efforts, such as the detention and trial of unlawful enemy combatants, are

coordinated with other important U.S. national security interests and the rule of law. The Committee's review will include the international standing of the United States, humanitarian assistance, development programs and public diplomacy efforts.

The Committee will evaluate U.S. vulnerability to global energy supply disruptions. The oversight will also include the extent to which supply diversification through the production of domestic renewable and non-renewable resources is an adequate and cost-effective solution for the Defense Department's national security objectives.

The Committee will continue oversight of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' care and management of veterans' needs. The Committee will examine the large backlog of veterans' benefit claims and efforts to streamline the claims process as well as veteran transitional issues.

HOMELAND SECURITY

The creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) required one of the largest consolidations of federal agencies in history. The Department was ultimately formed by bringing together 22 different parts of government. Though the Department has made progress in integrating these various agencies, incidents such as the response to Hurricane Katrina reveal that there is still room to improve efficiency and responsiveness. The Committee will review the operations, management and decision-making at DHS.

The Committee will evaluate efficiency and effectiveness of homeland security strategy, laws, initiatives, and technology. In particular, the Committee will focus on aviation, rail and transit, chemical, nuclear, port, our northern and southwestern borders, and other facilities or critical infrastructure at risk, federal funding interaction with local responders and efforts to strengthen the U.S. public health system.

The Committee will also review visas, passports and other border control and security identification issues, as well as border and immigration policies and the operations of U.S. consulates.

The Committee will conduct oversight of the federal government's emergency management capabilities to ensure that lessons learned from previous disasters, such as the need for improved planning and execution, communications operability, and coordination between all levels of government and within the federal government, are part of federal agency reform efforts.

The Committee will closely examine laws, regulations, and policies governing the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The Committee's oversight efforts will focus on maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of airport security, including technology, checkpoint screening, perimeter security, workforce requirements for screening agents, information sharing and private sector solutions for increasing airport security.

DRUG POLICY AND SAFETY

The Committee will examine specific pressing federal drug policy issues and the federal agencies that play a role in enforcing and overseeing federal drug policy. The Committee's drug policy efforts will be aimed at reducing the volume of illegal drugs available for

domestic use, reducing the volume of improper access to and use of otherwise legal drugs, and evaluating the agencies and offices that are tasked with handling crucial drug missions and, where necessary, recommending changes.

COMMITTEE ON RULES

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 14, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL E. ISSA,
Chair, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chair, Committee on House Administration, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRS: On February 13, 2013, the Committee on Rules met, in open session with a quorum present, and adopted by voice vote the Committee's Oversight Plan for the 113th Congress.

Pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby submit simultaneously to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and House Administration the Committee's Oversight Plan for the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

PETE SESSIONS,
Chairman.

[COMMITTEE PRINT]

113TH CONGRESS *1st Session* } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

FEBRUARY 13, 2013.—Approved by the Committee on Rules

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following

R E P O R T

Clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires each standing Committee, not later than February 15 of the first session, to adopt an oversight plan for the 113th Congress. The oversight plan must be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration.

The following agenda constitutes the oversight plan of the Committee on Rules for the 113th Congress. It includes areas in which the Committee and its subcommittees expect to conduct oversight during this Congress, but does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters or programs as they arise. The Committee will consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share jurisdiction on any of the subjects listed below.

BACKGROUND

The Committee on Rules has existed as part of the House committee structure since the First Congress, when it was established in 1789 as a select committee. The essential portion of the present

jurisdiction of the Committee is set forth in clause 1(o) of rule X, which grants the Committee jurisdiction over:

(1) Rules and joint rules (other than those relating to the Code of Conduct) and the order of business of the House.

(2) Recesses and final adjournments of Congress.

In addition, clause 3(j) of rule X assigns to the Committee special oversight responsibility over the congressional budget process.

The Committee on Rules has always been at the forefront of efforts to reform the processes and procedures of the House to improve the effectiveness of the institution.

The Committee also continues to play a lead role in providing recommendations for substantive changes to the rules of the House, which are adopted on the opening day of each Congress. Such changes have included streamlining the committee system to be more effective in conducting oversight and other business, ensuring the continuity of Congress in the face of man-made and natural disasters, increasing the transparency of committee and House actions, and modernizing the operations of the House.

Some of the substantive changes to House rules adopted on the opening day of the 113th Congress include:

- Streamlining the voting process for several specific instances in the House and the Committee of the Whole, including reducing the time for voting on motions to recommit to not less than five minutes;
- Improving the readability of the comparative print required by clause 3(e) of rule XIII—commonly known as a "Ramseyer"—by including other contiguous portions of law if they will be useful in understanding the change made by the amendment;
- Prohibiting the consideration of a concurrent resolution on the budget, or any proposed amendment to or conference report on, unless it includes specified information and estimates related to direct spending, including means-tested direct spending and non-means-tested direct spending;
- Continuing the requirement for "spending reduction" accounts in appropriations bills to ensure that spending cuts can reduce the costs of appropriations bills rather than be used exclusively as offsets for additional spending;
- Authorizing the chair of a committee to request that the Government Accountability Office perform a duplication analysis of any bill or joint resolution referred to that committee; and
- Requiring committee reports on bills or joint resolutions to include a statement estimating the number of directed rule-makings required by the measure.

In addition to the items discussed below, the Committee will continuously monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the rules changes adopted at the beginning of this Congress.

MAJOR AREAS FOR OVERSIGHT

Budget Process Reform. The annual budget process continues to present challenges to authorizing committees, appropriations committees, and the House as a whole. In each of the last sixteen fiscal years, Congress has failed to enact some or all of the annual appropriations bills prior to the start of the new fiscal year. In the second session of the 111th Congress, the House and Senate not only

failed to adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget, but for the first time the House and Senate Budget Committees failed to even report a resolution. Congress also failed to enact even a single regular appropriations bill for fiscal year 2011. In the 112th Congress, the House passed a concurrent resolution on the budget for two consecutive years, but the Senate did not consider a budget resolution during either session of the 112th Congress.

To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the legislative budget process, the Committee will examine alternative budget processes, including the use of biennial budgeting. A two-year budget cycle could provide committees and Members much-needed flexibility and time for increased scrutiny of government programs and funding requests.

The Nation, and by extension the taxpayers, is facing record deficits and record levels of public debt. Congress must ensure that its processes are best structured to allow for comprehensive oversight and informed decision-making.

The Committee will also continue to pursue the establishment of a joint select committee on budget process reform. The Committee recognizes that ultimately a bicameral solution is necessary in order to successfully implement reforms to the congressional budget process.

Dynamic Scoring. The American public and many in Congress continue to highlight the pressing need to reduce Federal government spending. This increased focus on government spending has also led to greater interest in the cost and revenue estimates of proposed legislation. In many cases, these estimates are also used to trigger budget enforcement mechanisms.

The Committee is committed to ensuring that the most accurate and comprehensive analysis is available to Members and the public. In the 113th Congress, the Committee will examine current estimating models, including the feasibility of further incorporating macroeconomic impacts of legislation in Congressional estimates in order to determine whether rules changes are necessary to improve the quality and accuracy of budget estimates.

Effective and Efficient Committee Jurisdiction. The Committee on Rules has always played an integral role in modernizing the rules of the House, including its rules on jurisdiction. In the 104th Congress, the House streamlined what was considered to be a bloated and ineffective committee system, abolishing three full committees (Committees on Post Office and Civil Service, the District of Columbia, and Merchant Marine and Fisheries). In the 107th Congress, the trend toward jurisdictional efficiency continued with the establishment of a new Committee on Financial Services. In the 108th Congress, the House responded to the changing security environment and the creation of the Department of Homeland Security by creating the Select Committee on Homeland Security, which became a standing committee of the House in the 109th Congress.

The House rules for the 113th Congress include two clarifications to rule X. The changes include clarifying that the Committee on Homeland Security's jurisdiction includes the general management of the Department of Homeland Security. This change is intended to clarify the Committee's existing jurisdiction over the organization and administration of the department, and is not intended to

alter the pattern of bill referrals to the Committee on Homeland Security, nor is it intended to alter the existing oversight jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security. Additionally, the changes conform terminology used in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources to terminology recognized by the Departments of State and Interior.

The Committee notes that there was a minimum of jurisdictional conflict in the 112th Congress. In furtherance of this goal, the Committee on Rules will continue to review proposals to streamline the committee system and increase effective oversight of the Executive branch and the Federal budget during the remainder of the 113th Congress.

Impact of New Information Technologies on the House. In recent years, the House has adapted and upgraded its technological capabilities to improve efficiency, accessibility, and transparency. Members are communicating more effectively with their constituents through the use of websites, blogs, and tele-townhalls, and many Members communicate with their constituents in real time through social media applications.

Technology is also affecting the way Congress considers legislation. For example, more data and analysis is readily available to Members in the execution of their duties. Bills and committee reports are available and often searchable electronically, and the public can follow Congressional proceedings in real time through "cybercasts."

Providing real-time information allows the broader public access to the day-to-day proceedings of the House. Technology is helping bridge the gaps of time and distance to bring representative government closer to the people and Members closer to their constituents. Technology is helping to create a more orderly process and to reduce costs and bureaucracy.

The 113th Congress rules continue to embrace the work of the 112th Congress of recognizing electronic availability as an alternative to physical printing by the Government Printing Office. Like any major change, this one will require oversight and adjustment as the House gains experience with the new rule and its implementation. In the 112th Congress, the House opened its portal for hosting electronic versions of text at *http://docs.house.gov*. At the beginning of this congress, the second phase of the project—the committee "repository"—came online to host electronic versions of committee documents. The House Office of Legislative Counsel, in conjunction with the Law Revision Counsel, is working on a series of electronic tools to facilitate "comparative prints" of legislation, amendments, and statutes.

The Committee will continue to monitor the progress of these projects and determine whether any additional rule or policy changes are necessary.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. As the House focuses its attention on creating jobs and restoring economic growth, it is critical that the Federal government not impose burdensome mandates on our nation's job creators nor on our state and local governments.

In the 104th Congress, the 1996 Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) was enacted. Among a number of provisions designed to reduce or eliminate unfunded mandates, the law requires the Con-

gressional Budget Office (CBO) to estimate the cost of unfunded public and private sector mandates. CBO cost estimates are required to be included in committee reports accompanying legislation brought to the House floor for consideration.

In 2013, this framework requires CBO to estimate the direct mandate costs of intergovernmental mandates exceeding $75 million and of private sector mandates exceeding $150 million proposed in any measure reported from a committee. It also establishes a point of order against consideration of legislation that contains intergovernmental mandates with mandate costs estimated to exceed the threshold amount. In addition, Title II requires Federal administrative agencies to assess the effects on state and local governments and the private sector of proposed and final Federal rules and to prepare a written statement of estimated costs and benefits for any mandate requiring an expenditure exceeding $100 million in any given year.

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will continue to examine the application of the procedures and enforcement mechanisms associated with UMRA, as well as proposals for expanding the application of the law to capture indirect costs.

Health Care Reform Legislation. In March 2010, President Obama signed health care reform legislation into law (P.L. 111–148 & P.L. 111–152). The law created an Independent Payment Advisory Board and contains rules and procedures for congressional consideration of the Board's proposals. The law also contains expedited procedures for consideration of a joint resolution for the dissolution of the Board.

Section 3(a) of H. Res. 5 (113th Congress) contained a provision that suspends the procedures for congressional consideration of IPAB proposals. The Rules Committee will use this opportunity to review necessary changes to House procedures relating to IPAB.

The Congressional Review Act of 1996. Job creation and economic growth continues to be the number one priority for the House in the 113th Congress. Part of this agenda includes a systematic review of existing Executive branch regulations that could hinder economic growth and job creation. While the House undertakes a review of existing regulations and their potential impacts on job creation and the economy, it is essential that Congress also be prepared to respond to future regulatory proposals.

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) provides Congress with an opportunity to review—and stop—regulations before their final implementation. Under the expedited procedures established by P.L. 104–121, if a majority of the House and Senate vote to approve a joint resolution of disapproval and the President signs it into law within 60 legislative days of the regulation's publication in The Federal Register, the proposed regulation cannot go into effect.

In the 113th Congress, the Rules Committee may examine the CRA, and its procedures, in order to determine if the CRA can be better utilized to ensure burdensome regulations do not impede job creation and economic growth.

Treatment of Confidential Business Information. During the normal course of oversight, committees obtain a wide variety of information, including confidential business information. This can take the form of trade secrets, personnel information, attorney-client

privileged matter, or other kinds of data that would not otherwise be publicly available. Sometimes that information comes to the committee from the owner of the information, and other times it comes via a Federal regulatory agency that receives the information during the normal course of regulatory enforcement.

Often, this information is essential to providing committees with the background necessary to conduct effective oversight of public and private entities alike. However, if that same information is disclosed publicly, it has the potential to cause irreparable harm to the entity to which the information belongs. The firms providing this kind of information often have protections against disclosure by Federal agencies, but do not enjoy the same kinds of protections when this information is provided to the House.

The Senate has a rule prohibiting disclosure of confidential business information in the possession of a Senate committee; the House has no analog. While House committees often deal with these questions on a case-by-case basis, some individuals have asked whether more robust protections are necessary to avoid disclosure of confidential business information when disclosure is not essential to the advancement of oversight. Any change in the regime governing this kind of committee information must balance the needs of the owner of the information with the needs of the House to conduct effective oversight. Further, the operation of the "speech and debate" clause of the Constitution must also inform any changes in this area.

In the 113th Congress, the Committee will conduct a review of existing laws and committee rules and procedures governing the handling of confidential business information. This review is intended to provide the background necessary for the Committee to consider whether any changes to the Rules of the House are necessary.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

The Committee on Rules met in open session on February 13, 2013 and ordered the measure reported by a voice vote, a quorum being present.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 5, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

Hon. CANDICE MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA AND CHAIRMAN MILLER: Enclosed herewith please find the oversight plan of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, adopted January 23, 2013, pursuant to House Rule X (2)(d). Further, an electronic version of the oversight plan, in Microsoft Word format, was received by Linda Good, Chief Clerk for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, today.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the submission of this plan, please direct them to the Committee's Chief Counsel, Holt Lackey. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

House Rule X sets the Committee's legislative jurisdiction while also assigning broad general oversight responsibilities (Appendix A). Rule X also assigns the Committee special oversight responsibility for "reviewing and studying, on a continuing basis, all laws, programs, and Government activities dealing with or involving non-military research and development." The Committee appreciates the special function entrusted to it and will continue to tackle troubled programs and search for waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in non-military research and development programs regardless of where they may be found.

Much of the oversight work of the Committee is carried out by and through the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee. However, oversight is conducted by every Subcommittee and the full Committee. All components of the Committee take their oversight charge seriously, and those components have worked cooperatively in the past, as they will in the future, to meet our oversight responsibilities.

The Committee also routinely works with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Inspectors General (IG) of our agencies to maintain detailed awareness of the work of those offices. The Committee currently has numerous outstanding requests with the GAO and more will be developed in the coming weeks and months. Many of these requests are bipartisan, having been signed by both the Chairmen and Ranking Members of our Committee and Subcommittees, or include multiple Committee Chairmen where there are shared interests. The Committee also works collaboratively with the National Academies of Science, the Congressional Research Service, the Office of Government Ethics, and the Office of Special Counsel, as well as various other independent investigative and oversight entities.

Oversight is commonly driven by emerging events. The Committee will address burgeoning issues and topics as they transpire. Nevertheless, the Committee feels that the work contained in this plan reflects an accurate portrayal of its oversight intentions as of January, 2013.

SPACE

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) human space flight program

The Committee will continue to provide oversight of NASA's human spaceflight program as it undergoes a period of uncertainty and transition following various Administration proposals. Specific attention will be paid to the feasibility of NASA's plans and priorities relative to their resources and requirements.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Commercial Space Transportation

FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation (OCST) licenses commercial launch vehicles. An area of increasing interest is the emergence of a number of fledgling commercial human suborbital space flight ventures. In addition to its oversight of the FAA's OCST, the Committee will examine the progress of the emerging personal space flight industry, as well as the challenges it faces.

NASA Space Science

The Committee will monitor NASA's efforts to prioritize, plan, launch, and operate space science missions within cost and schedule. Particular attention will be paid to programs that exceed cost estimates to ensure they do not adversely impact the development and launch of other missions.

FAA Research and Development (R&D) activities

The Committee will oversee the R&D activities at the FAA to ensure that they lead to improvements in FAA mission performance. The Committee has a particular interest in the performance of the Joint Planning and Development Office (JPDO), and FAA's management of its Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) program.

Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS)

The Committee will evaluate the ability, cost, safety, and reliability of commercial providers to meet NASA requirements to deliver cargo and crew to the ISS.

International Space Station (ISS) utilization and operation

The plans for operation and utilization of the ISS will continue to draw the Committee's attention as NASA attempts to fully utilize the unique research opportunities that the facility offers, while exclusively relying on logistical services from commercial and foreign providers. Given the significant national investment to date in the facility, Congress has directed that NASA maintain a strong research and technology program to take advantage of ISS's unique capabilities.

Aeronautics Research

An important area for oversight will be NASA's aeronautics research and development program. The Committee plans to examine NASA's ability to support the interagency effort to modernize the nation's air traffic management system, as well as its ability to undertake important long-term R&D on aircraft safety, emissions, noise, and energy consumption—R&D that will have a significant impact on the quality of life and U.S. competitiveness in aviation.

NASA contract and financial management

A perennial topic on GAO's high risk series, NASA financial management will continue to receive attention from the Committee. The Committee will also monitor NASA's contract management to ensure acquisitions are handled appropriately.

Near Earth Objects

Congress provided guidance to NASA relating to Near Earth Objects in its last two authorization bills. The Committee will continue to monitor NASA's compliance with that direction, as well as determine whether additional oversight is necessary.

Within the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee's jurisdiction, activities warranting further review include costs associated with cancellation of the Constellation program, NASA's approach to develop and fund a successor to the Space Shuttle, and investment in NASA launch infrastructure. NASA has not clearly articulated what types of future human space flight missions it wishes to pursue, or their rationale.

ENERGY

Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science

DOE plays a leading role in supporting basic research in the physical sciences and driving long-term innovation and economic growth. The Committee will conduct oversight of Office of Science programs to review prioritization across, and management within, its major program areas. Special attention will also be given to the cost, operation, and maintenance of DOE's existing and planned major facilities.

DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)

The Committee will undertake efforts to improve focus, prioritization, and transparency of EERE programs, and provide close oversight to ensure that programs are managed efficiently, duplication is limited, and funding is allocated appropriately and effectively.

Fossil Energy R&D

Fossil energy will remain a crucial aspect of America's energy portfolio for the foreseeable future. In the 113th Congress, the Committee will continue to ensure that fossil fuel R&D programs are appropriately focused and managed efficiently. Expected areas of oversight include coal R&D prioritization and program management and oil and gas R&D efforts.

DOE loan guarantees

Recent program management problems associated with DOE loan guarantees necessarily call for greater attention by the Committee. Ensuring the program minimizes risk to taxpayers and addresses previously identified problems will be a priority in the 113th Congress.

Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA–E)

The Committee will undertake oversight of ARPA–E program funding and management in the 113th Congress, examining the appropriate role for and focus of ARPA–E in the context of DOE's numerous other clean energy-focused programs and activities.

DOE Contract Management

DOE programs have come under frequent scrutiny for contract management practices. GAO designated DOE's contract management as high-risk in 1990 and continues to identify areas of potential waste, fraud, and abuse.

Nuclear R&D

The Committee will provide oversight of the nation's nuclear R&D activities with the goal of unleashing the potential of emissions-free energy. DOE, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and industry stakeholders are working to advance reactor construction of new nuclear reactors. The Committee will examine how DOE R&D can best contribute to this goal through the advancement of various nuclear energy technologies.

ENVIRONMENT

Science and R&D at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The Committee will continue to provide oversight of EPA's management of science and its use of science in the decision making process, including lab management, regulatory science, transparency, and risk assessment. In particular, the Committee will examine how to better integrate science into the Administration's regulatory decision-making process.

Federal climate research activities

The Committee will continue to monitor programs to address climate change issues across the Federal government to ensure that existing programs are necessary, appropriately focused, effectively coordinated, and properly organized to prevent duplication of efforts and waste taxpayer resources.

Federal ocean research activities

The Committee will evaluate the President's National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes, which adopted the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force recommendations aimed at addressing the future of our oceans. The Committee will monitor the implementation of this plan, as well as Federal oceanic R&D policy generally.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Forecasting

The Committee will examine funding prioritization and program management challenges related to the NOAA's mission to understand and predict changes in weather, particularly as they relate to severe weather events that threaten life and property.

NASA Earth Science

The Committee will monitor NASA's efforts to prioritize, plan, and implement Earth science missions within cost and schedule. Particular attention will be paid to programs that exceed cost estimates to ensure they do not adversely impact the development and launch of other NASA priorities. The Committee will also examine

the impact of large increases in funding for the Earth Science Directorate relative to funding requested for other science disciplines.

TECHNOLOGY

Cybersecurity

The Committee has continuously stressed the protection of the nation's cyber-infrastructure, which underpins much private and public activity. The Committee will continue to provide critical oversight of how NIST and DHS address this important topic and will be particularly interested in how federal agencies balance security mandates with the ability to allow technological development through innovation.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

The Committee will conduct program oversight for NIST, and other programs in the Department of Commerce, paying special attention to the evaluation of their alignment with and impact on industry. NIST manages a number of multi-agency manufacturing initiatives. The Committee will scrutinize these initiatives to ensure they are operating effectively and efficiently, and to ensure that they are not encroaching on areas better served by the private sector. In another area of NIST, the Committee is aware that America's competitive position can be dramatically improved, or weakened, depending on how standards for different products and processes are developed. NIST is the only federal agency with long-term expertise in this arena, and the Committee is concerned that the cooperation on standards development across agencies is less than optimal. Furthermore, the Committee intends to review the six laboratory units of the agency to ensure they are operating effectively in preparation for reauthorizing these activities.

Advanced Technologies

The Committee will examine R&D programs to ensure that they are focused in areas that support the most promising new areas of technology, including bio, nano, energy and health sectors. Real improvements in the cost and accuracy of health care can be achieved through effective integration of information technology within the health care industry. NIST has a critical role to play in helping to develop standards and conformance testing processes that will protect patient privacy and minimize private sector waste. The Committee will also examine NIST's role in the development of the smart grid, the management of cross-agency information technology (NITRD) and nanotechnology (NNI) research programs, and measurement science underpinning the biotechnology industry.

Department of Transportation (DOT) R&D programs

The Committee will conduct oversight with regard to implementation of MAP–21 and related surface transportation R&D programs within the federal government, with a particular focus on strategic planning, performance measurements, effectiveness and preventing redundancy.

Economic Competitiveness and Job Creation

America must maintain its economic and technological preeminence. The Committee will evaluate federal policies that enhance domestic and international competitiveness for U.S. companies, conduct oversight of federal policies that present barriers to innovation, and support policies that encourage job creation in innovative, growing economic sectors. The Committee must also increase oversight of the new policies recently enacted by the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) and ensure that it is focused on the most promising innovations.

Technology Transfer

The Committee will seek recommendations for continued improvements in the technology transfer incentives built into law by the Bayh-Dole and Stevenson-Wydler Acts and the SBIR program to improve America's competitiveness and innovative capacity.

United States Fire Administration (USFA)

The USFA is responsible for training and education of career and volunteer firefighters and first responders across America. They also support management of several grant programs that provide equipment and support staffing for firefighters. The Committee will closely monitor the direction of these program and the continued efforts of the USFA to ensure first responders have the necessary support and training.

Natural Hazards

The Committee has supported interagency research programs to mitigate the damage caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes, windstorms, and fires by developing early warning systems and improved building and infrastructure design. The Committee will continue to evaluate programs to protect Americans from these and other hazards.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology

The Committee will continue to monitor the maturation of DHS, particularly the effectiveness and organization of the Science and Technology Directorate, and the research and technology programs associated with the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office.

RESEARCH

National Science Foundation (NSF)

The Committee will continue to oversee the NSF. With the recent reauthorization of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Act, special attention will be paid to the implementation, execution and effectiveness of these new programs.

Further, the Committee will look for ways to trim duplicative and unused programs in an effort to maximize available resources. The innovative work of the National Science Foundation is important to the economic prosperity and competitiveness of the United States. However, there are various activities within the Foundation that may go beyond the mission of the agency and require more

scrutiny and potential cuts in order to ensure that federal investments in basic science remain primarily focused on research that actually benefits the Nation.

Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics (STEM) K–12 oversight

STEM education is vital to the 21st Century economy. Members of the Committee have expressed interests in improving STEM education activities from pre-K through graduate and continuing education in order to cultivate a top-notch future scientific and technical workforce, including well-qualified teachers in STEM fields. Determining the appropriate forms of federal support for these outcomes is important to the Committee.

While STEM education is critical to maintaining the scientific and technical workforce essential to our competitiveness, many duplicative, wasteful, or simply unused programs exist across a number of federal agencies and must be more closely examined and, where warranted, cut.

Academic/Industry Partnerships

The Committee will review the effectiveness and consequences of academic/industry partnerships. Agencies and universities are again debating the level of scrutiny and control that should be applied to research in light of the possible use by our adversaries of American discoveries and inventions. At the same time, industry questions the value of controls on technology sales and argues that such controls disproportionately limit American firms in competition for global sales. How to balance these competing interests remains a perennial subject for Committee oversight.

U.S. Antarctic and Arctic Programs

The U.S. has conducted operations on the Antarctic continent under the terms of the Antarctic Treaty System since 1959, and U.S. research activities in the Arctic predate that. The NSF serves as the steward for U.S. interests in Antarctica. Research in these extreme regions is a fundamental component to understanding the Earth and its systems. The future of the icebreaker fleet that provides vital logistical support for NSF activities in the harsh polar environments continues to be of concern.

NSF Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) program

The Committee will continue to monitor and oversee NSF's MREFC program, including how priorities for projects are developed, long-term budgeting for such priorities, and decision-making with regards to ever-changing scientific community needs.

Government-wide R&D initiatives in emerging fields

The Committee will continue to oversee the collaboration and interagency process associated with emerging fields such as networking and information technology, biotechnology, cybersecurity, and nanotechnology.

OVERSIGHT

Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository closure decision

The Committee will continue to evaluate DOE's decision to close the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository.

NOAA satellite modernization

The Committee will continue its close monitoring of satellite modernization at NOAA. The restructured Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) will continue to draw the Committee's attention, as will the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites and the broader issues of research-to-operations planning and data continuity.

Critical minerals, materials, and isotopes

The Committee will provide oversight of materials, minerals, and isotopes that are critical to U.S. national interests. Recent shortages and supply concerns associated with helium-3, rare earth elements, californium-251, and plutonium-238 highlight the need to be ever vigilant in our monitoring of critical materials, minerals and isotopes.

Agency Information Technology Security

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of agency efforts to protect information technology systems. Threats and intrusions increase as GAO and IG recommendations go unaddressed. The Committee will ensure that agencies comply with existing statutes and address outside recommendations in a timely manner.

Risk assessment

As the number and complexity of regulations increases throughout federal and state governments, the risk assessments that inform those decisions are garnering more attention. The Committee will continue to oversee how risk assessments are developed and how they are used in the regulatory process to ensure that policies are based on the best science available.

Scientific integrity

The Committee will continue to collect and examine allegations of intimidation of science specialists in federal agencies, suppression or revisions of scientific finding, and mischaracterization of scientific findings because of political or other pressures. The Committee's oversight will also involve the development and implementation of scientific integrity principles within the executive branch.

Additional Science Activities

Pursuant to House Rule X, the Committee will review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs and Government activities throughout the government relating to non-military research and development.

Agency compliance with Congressional directives and requests

The Committee will be vigilant in its oversight to ensure that recent authorization acts, appropriation acts, and other congressional directions are complied with appropriately.

Emerging Issues

The Committee will conduct oversight of additional matters as the need arises and as provided for under House Rule X, clause 3(k).

COLLABORATION

The Committee maintains a rich relationship with its Inspectors General, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the National Academies of Science, the Congressional Research Service, the Office of Government Ethics, and the Office of Special Counsel, as well as various other independent investigative and oversight entities. The Committee will continue to work with those offices, relying on them to identify major mismanagement issues, using their reports in hearings, and working with the High Risk Series published by GAO to guide hearings and inquiries. The Committee already has several outstanding requests, many of which are bipartisan or cross-Committee, reflecting the collaborative nature of much of the Committee's oversight work.

The Committee also welcomes input from the public and whistleblowers. The Committee has developed many relationships with whistleblowers in agencies. The Committee has taken positive steps to try to protect them from retaliation and has been reasonably successful in that role. Most of the whistleblowers who come to the Committee remain anonymous—sometimes even from the Committee.

The Committee will retain its open-door policy regarding whistleblowers, whether they are contractors or government employees, and they should rest assured that we will never betray a confidence. Even if the information offered turns out not to be useful, as sometimes happens, the Committee will remain a haven for such figures and we understand the absolute necessity for citizens to feel safe in their communications with Congress.

APPENDIX A

House Rule X

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES

Committees and their legislative jurisdictions

1. There shall be in the House the following standing committees, each of which shall have the jurisdiction and related functions assigned by this clause and clauses 2, 3, and 4. All bills, resolutions, and other matters relating to subjects within the jurisdiction of the standing committees listed in this clause shall be referred to those committees, in accordance with clause 2 of rule XII, as follows:

(p) Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

(1) All energy research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor, and all federally owned or operated nonmilitary energy laboratories.

(2) Astronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities.

(3) Civil aviation research and development.

(4) Environmental research and development.

(5) Marine research.

(6) Commercial application of energy technology.

(7) National Institute of Standards and Technology, standardization of weights and measures, and the metric system.

(8) National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(9) National Space Council.

(10) National Science Foundation.

(11) National Weather Service.

(12) Outer space, including exploration and control thereof.

(13) Science scholarships.

(14) Scientific research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor.

Special oversight functions

3(k) The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology shall review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 28, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,
House of Representatives.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA AND CHAIRMAN MILLER: Pursuant to House Rule X(2)(d)(1), I am pleased to enclose a copy of the Oversight Plan of the Committee on Small Business. The enclosed document was drafted in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member and was approved, a quorum being present, by voice vote without amendment during the Committee's organizational meeting on January 23, 2013.

Sincerely yours,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

January 23, 2013, Approved by the Committee on Small Business

Mr. Graves, from the Committee on Small Business, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following

REPORT

Rule X, cl. 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the House requires each standing Committee to adopt an oversight plan for the two-year period of the Congress and to submit the plan to the Committees on Government Reform and House Administration not later than February 15 of the first session of the Congress. Under Rule X, the Committee has oversight authority to investigate and examine any matter affecting small business. This Report reflects that broad oversight jurisdiction.

Pursuant to Rule X, cl. 2(d)(1)(F), this oversight plan also includes proposals to cut or eliminate programs that are inefficient, duplicative, outdated, or more appropriately administered by State or local governments.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL ACCESS PROGRAMS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into Small Business Administration (SBA) and other federal agencies that provide capital to America's entrepreneurs that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Effectiveness of the capital access programs to generate jobs in the fastest growing small businesses.
- Whether lenders are meeting their goals to lend to small businesses and create jobs.
- Risk to the taxpayers of the capital access programs and if those risks are not reasonable, then elimination of those programs.
- Adequacy of SBA oversight of its lending partners to ensure that federal taxpayers are properly protected.
- Capabilities of the SBA information technology to manage the loan portfolio.
- Appropriateness of ad hoc guidance documents in regulating lenders and borrowers.
- The exercise of discretion by SBA to create pilot programs and the risk they pose to the taxpayer and whether such authority should be curtailed or eliminated.
- Whether SBA disaster loan program and its oversight ensures that small businesses are able to revive to rebuild communities without unduly placing the federal taxpayer at risk.

- Efficacy and duplication of federal capital access programs offered by the Department of Agriculture to small businesses in rural areas.
- Utilization by small businesses of export capital programs at the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.
- Results of the Small Business Lending Fund and State Small Business Credit Initiative established by Pub. L. No. 111–240, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, in creating jobs and providing capital to small businesses.
- Impact of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Pub. L. No. 111–203, on small business access to capital.
- Implementation of crowdfunding and other provisions of the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act, Pub. L. No. 112–106.

In performing oversight, the Committee will focus on particularly risky aspects of financial assistance programs including, but not limited to, commercial real estate refinancing, premier certified lenders, participating security small business investment companies, small business lending companies, express lenders, and loan programs utilizing simplified lending applications.

OVERSIGHT OF SBA AND OTHER FEDERAL ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the SBA programs that provide training and advice to small businesses that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Examining effectiveness of SBA entrepreneurial development programs in creating jobs.
- Determining whether certain programs should be eliminated as a result of their ineffectiveness or duplication of programs provided by other agencies or by the private sector.
- Suggesting methods for enhancing coordination among federal agencies in providing assistance to entrepreneurs, including, but not limited to, businesses located in rural areas and those seeking to provide goods and services in the federal procurement marketplace.
- Enhancing the efficacy and utilization of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership at the Department of Commerce.
- Recommending improvements in assistance to small businesses that participate in the production of value-added agricultural products.
- Increasing effectiveness of technical assistance provided to small businesses involved in the production of renewable and non-renewable energy sources.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING MATTERS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the federal procurement system that may include any or all of the fol-

lowing, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Whether fraud or other problems exist in the federal government contracting programs overseen by the SBA including the 8(a), HUBZone, service-disabled veteran, women-owned contracting, and Small Business Innovation Research.
- Effectiveness of SBA contracting programs to increase participation by small businesses in federal procurement.
- Effectiveness of federal agency protections against contract bundling and consolidation.
- The accuracy and utility of SBA size standards and federal procurement databases.
- Operation and effectiveness of federal agency assistance provided to small businesses interested in federal procurement, including that provided by the SBA, Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization and Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.
- Development of federal acquisition policies and whether small businesses have sufficiently effective voice in development of such policies.
- Cost-effectiveness of outsourcing government work to private enterprise rather than expanding the government to provide the good or service internally (i.e., government insourcing).
- Implementation and efficacy of changes made in small business federal procurement programs arising from the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2013, Pub. L. No. 112–239.
- Examination of the Small Business Innovation Research Program as modified by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2012, Pub. L. No. 112–81, including, but not limited to, increased efforts at commercializing federally-funded technology.

In performing oversight, the Committee will focus its efforts on uncovering abuse and misuse of the small business designation to obtain federal government contracts.

OVERSIGHT OF SBA MANAGEMENT

The Committee will conduct the hearings and investigations into the management of the SBA that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- The appropriate mission of the SBA.
- Whether agency employees in the field are empowered to assist small businesses.
- Duplication of offices and missions at SBA headquarters.
- Effectiveness of personnel management to ensure that employees are rewarded for assisting small businesses.
- Capabilities of SBA employees to provide proper assistance to small business owners.

In carrying out this oversight, the Committee will focus particularly on streamlining and reorganizing of the agency's operations to

provide maximum assistance to small business owners. Offices that primarily provide assistance or advice to headquarters staff that do not promote the interests of small businesses or protect the federal government as a guarantor of loans will be recommended for cuts or elimination. For some potential offices that the Committee will examine, refer to the section title "Reductions in Programs and Spending."

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL REGULATORY AND PAPERWORK BURDENS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into unnecessary, burdensome, and duplicative federal rules, reporting and recordkeeping requirements affecting small businesses that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- Consumer Safety Products Commission.
- Department of Agriculture.
- Department of Energy, particularly the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.
- Department of Interior, particularly the Bureau of Land Management and Minerals Management Service.
- Department of Labor, particularly the Occupation Safety and Health Administration.
- Department of Homeland Security, particularly the Transportation Security Administration.
- Department of Transportation, particularly the Federal Aviation Administration and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.
- Environmental Protection Agency.
- Federal Communications Commission.
- Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council and its constituent agencies.
- Food and Drug Administration.
- Office of Federal Procurement Policy.
- Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Committee will identify specific rules and regulations already issued or at the proposed rule stage to assess the impact on small businesses. The Committee will pay close attention to the effect that regulations have on the implementation of advanced technologies including, but not limited to, the deployment of broadband communications (either by wireline or wireless services) throughout the United States. Oversight of the regulatory process also will, to the extent relevant, examine the work of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget. Special attention will be paid to the work performed by the Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the United States Small Business Administration to ensure that Office is fulfilling its mission to advocate vigorously on behalf of America's small business owners in regulatory matters at federal agencies. Finally, this oversight will entail an examination of compliance by federal agencies with amendments to Executive Order 12,866 and memoranda on regulatory flexibility and regulatory compliance issued by the President on

January 18, 2011 and still in effect as of the approval of this Oversight Plan.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL TAX POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the federal tax code, its impact on small business, and Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) collection of taxes that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Identification of tax code provisions that hinder the ability of small businesses to create jobs and recommendations for modifying those provisions to boost small business job growth.
- Examination of the structure of the tax code in order to simplify compliance for small businesses.
- Assessment of the recordkeeping and reporting requirements associated with tax compliance and suggestions for reducing such burdens on small businesses.
- Evaluation of the estate tax provisions to determine whether they inhibit the ability of successive generations to maintain successful job creating enterprises.
- Efficiencies at that the IRS that improve the interaction between the government and small business owners.
- Inefficiencies at the IRS that force small businesses to divert capital from job growth to tax compliance.

OVERSIGHT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into federal health care policy (such as Medicare and Medicaid) and the continued implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- The cost of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to small businesses, including the self-employed.
- The impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid on the ability of physicians, pharmacists, and allied health care providers to offer the best care possible to patients.
- The impact of state tort and insurance laws on the cost of medical care.
- Examination of increases in efficiencies that will improve the provision of health care while reducing costs to small businesses that offer their workers health insurance.

OVERSIGHT OF ENERGY POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into energy policy to reduce the cost of energy and increase energy independence that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Innovations developed by small businesses that create greater energy independence.

- Federal regulatory policies that increase dependence on foreign sources of energy.
- Policies needed to incentivize production of energy in the United States.
- Examination of commercialization of research in renewable energy.
- Federal regulations or policies that increase energy costs for small businesses.

The primary thrust of the Committee's efforts will focus on efforts to use the innovation of America's entrepreneurs to fuel the drive for greater energy independence.

OVERSIGHT OF TRADE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into international trade and intellectual property policies of America and its trading partners that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Impact of free trade agreements to increase exports by American small businesses.
- Whether the federal government is doing enough to protect the intellectual property rights of small businesses by foreign competitors.
- The impact of federal intellectual property policies, particularly patents and copyrights, to protect the innovations of American entrepreneurs.
- Efforts to increase exports by small businesses.

The focus of oversight will emphasize the best mechanisms to promote and protect advanced technology innovations of small businesses.

REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND SPENDING

In addition to the programs and policies already cited, the Committee will examine any and all offices and programs that fall within the Committee's legislative jurisdiction to find areas that could lead to reduction in the federal deficit. Some programs and offices may include:

- State Small Business Credit Initiative operated by Department of Treasury.
- Patriot Express Loan Program overseen by the SBA.
- Express Loan Program overseen by SBA.
- Emerging Leaders Initiative started by SBA.
- Clusters Program initiated by the SBA.
- Innovation and Impact Fund Pilot Programs operated by the SBA.
- Drug-Free Workplace Program.
- SBA Office of Policy.
- SBA Regional Administrators.
- Office of Advocacy Regional Advocates.
- SBA Deputy District Directors.
- SBA Office of International Trade.
- SBA Office of Native American Affairs.

In particular, the Committee will assess whether reorganization and reassignment of employees to more critical functions at the SBA, such as positions as procurement center representatives, will provide a more effective agency at assisting small businesses generate growth.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 25, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA: Pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform the Oversight Plan of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the 113th Congress. On January 23, 2013. the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session and adopted this Oversight Plan by voice vote with a quorum present.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

OVERSIGHT PLAN

In accordance with Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for determining whether laws and programs within its jurisdiction are being implemented according to Congressional intent and whether they should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated. In the 113th Congress, the Committee will review the activities of government agencies and entities within its jurisdiction and the public and private interests they affect or regulate. As appropriate, the Committee will investigate ways to improve the overall performance and operation of the agencies and entities it oversees, promote reform and cost savings, and eliminate fraud, wasteful spending, abuse and mismanagement where possible.

The oversight and investigation functions are vested at the Full Committee level. Oversight and investigation activities will be coordinated between the Full Committee and the Subcommittees. This structure will facilitate oversight of issues that cut across the jurisdiction of several Subcommittees. The Committee will continue to exercise its oversight duties through its own staff as well as through work performed at the Committee's request by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the various Inspectors General within their respective agencies and departments. Oversight activities will include hearings, briefings, correspondence, reports, media releases, and public statements.

The GAO provides Congress a biennial update on its High Risk Program, which identifies Federal programs and operations that it considers to be at high risk for waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement, or in need of broad reform. Consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee will hold hearings on the programs within the Committee's jurisdiction on GAO's "high-risk" list. The rules also require the Committee to hold at least one hearing every 120 days on "waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which that committee may authorize." These hearings will focus on "the most egregious instances of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement," as documented by any report that the Committee has received from an Inspector General or GAO. Finally, the Committee will hold hearings if any agency has received disclaimers on its agency financial statements.

The Committee has identified several particular areas for oversight and investigation in the 113th Congress. These areas are organized by Subcommittee and discussed below:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

1. Implementation of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. The "FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012" (FMRA) was signed into law on February 14, 2012. The FMRA authorizes funding for and reforms and revises the safety programs,

air traffic control modernization (NextGen) efforts, and operations of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) through fiscal year 2015. This law also contains over 100 deadlines for Federal government action, including: rulemakings, program implementations, plans, studies and task force actions. The Subcommittee will closely oversee the FAA's efforts to implement the mandates contained in the FMRA.

2. Safety Programs. The Subcommittee has held numerous safety hearings and will continue its oversight in the new Congress. Maintaining a safe and efficient aviation system is critical to the aviation industry, passengers, the U.S. economy, job creation, and U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace. Issues to be addressed include: regional airline safety, general aviation safety, the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), pilot and controller training, ways to reduce operational errors, the FAA's enforcement and certification activities, and the FAA's volunteer reporting and data sharing and assessment programs.

3. Evaluation of FAA's NextGen Air Traffic Control Modernization. Since the early 1980's, the FAA has been trying to modernize the air traffic control system, a program referred to as "NextGen." NextGen is essential if the United States is to remain competitive and a leader in aviation in the global marketplace. The modernization program is now moving beyond the research and development phase and into the implementation phase. The FAA and industry must work together to reap the many benefits of a modern, satellite-based system. Benefits of this project include: greater system efficiency; reduced noise exposure; reduced emissions and fuel burn; improved safety; increased accuracy and reliability in the equipment and software; and the capability for future computer enhancements. Over the years, the FAA's efforts have often been behind schedule and over budget. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor and examine the FAA's efforts to establish performance metrics, meet deadlines, stay within budget, put in place an aircraft equipage program, and streamline implementation of the NextGen program.

4. Oversight of the Office of the Secretary. The Office of the Secretary within the Department of Transportation (DOT) inherited several aviation functions when the Civil Aeronautics Board was abolished. These functions include ensuring that air carriers do not engage in unfair and deceptive practices that could harm consumers and ensuring that business agreements among air carriers do not result in harmful effects. Many of these functions have a dramatic impact on the industry, competition, and job creation. Hearings may be held to evaluate various DOT programs and policies affecting aviation, including slots, essential air service, air carrier alliances, aviation consumer issues, international air service, key safety treaties, and the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme.

5. Airline Financial Condition and Passenger Service. Much of the last decade has been a difficult one for the airline industry. The cumulative impacts of 9/11, the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, spikes in fuel prices, and the global recession have taken their toll, although the industry has been profitable over the last few years. Moreover, over the next

decade, the FAA predicts that air traffic operations will increase. When the economy improves, passenger complaints about delays, cancellations, overbooking, customer service, and transparency in airfares and ancillary fees charged by airlines may rise again as passenger traffic rebounds. The Subcommittee will continue to examine ways to maintain the airline industry, review recently established regulations to ensure the proper balance is maintained between safety and commerce, and refocus its attention on service issues.

6. Streamlining the FAA's Policies, Programs, and Procedures. The Subcommittee is interested in an expected assessment of the FAA's existing policies, programs and procedures in order to seek ways to streamline processes and eliminate wasteful and redundant programs and overly burdensome regulations. In the FMRA, the FAA is given the authority to carry out any efforts needed to achieve the efficiencies outlined in the assessment. The FAA is also directed to work with labor and industry and provide Congress with a plan for the realignment and consolidation of the FAA's facilities. The Subcommittee will carefully oversee these and other efforts by the FAA to achieve much needed efficiencies and cost savings.

7. Oversight of the National Transportation Safety Board. Authorization for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) expired in 2008. A reauthorization bill passed the House in 2010 but was not enacted. Reauthorization of NTSB may be considered in the 113th Congress. This would be preceded by oversight hearings by the Subcommittee.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

1. Coast Guard Budget. The Coast Guard is currently functioning under a continuing resolution for fiscal year 2013 which expires March 27, 2013. The continuing resolution provides funding for all Coast Guard accounts and activities at the fiscal year 2012 level plus 0.612 percent. On December 20, 2012, the President signed into law H.R. 2838, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012, which authorized $8.6 billion for the Service in fiscal year 2013 and $8.7 billion in fiscal year 2014.

In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will hold hearings on the President's fiscal year 2014 and 2015 budget requests and consider legislation to authorize the Coast Guard. The Subcommittee will explore ways to implement cost savings at the Service by leveraging efficiencies and eliminating waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

2. Coast Guard Recapitalization. The Coast Guard is currently undergoing a major recapitalization of its offshore operating assets. The recapitalization is intended to replace or modernize more than 90 ships and 200 aircraft, as well as replace outdated command, control, and communications systems. The recapitalization is facing serious challenges related to schedule, budget, and engineering.

The Coast Guard has failed to develop a recapitalization program that reflects the current budget environment, and continues to pursue a plan not supported by either Administration budget requests or Congressional appropriations. Since 2001, expanding mission de-

mands have been placed on the Service. These increased demands require aging and deteriorating legacy assets to operate well beyond planned service lives. Legacy assets are deteriorating at increasing rates as tightened budgets delay the acquisition of replacement assets. These intersecting trend lines jeopardize readiness.

The recapitalization program has had several successes, including major upgrades to the Coast Guard's helicopters, and the ongoing acquisition of new classes of ocean-going and near-shore cutters. Despite these successes, the Subcommittee remains concerned with the escalating costs of the program, the mission readiness of existing assets, the failure of certain new assets to meet performance goals, inattention to icebreaker recapitalization needs, and the lack of a realistic Capital Investment Plan.

In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue to closely review the Coast Guard's recapitalization program, as well as any changes to the program which may be necessary to ensure the men and women of the Coast Guard who risk their lives for the Nation have the best equipment possible at the best price for the American taxpayers.

3. Coast Guard Mission Balance and Alignment. The Subcommittee remains concerned about the balance of resources and assets assigned to the Service's different missions. Since September 11, 2001, the Coast Guard has received significantly increased resources to carry out homeland security missions, including ports, waterways, and coastal security and migrant interdiction. The Subcommittee wants to assure the Service's equally critical missions, including maritime transportation, safety of life at sea, and environmental stewardship, are given sufficient weight when allocating resources and assigning assets.

The Subcommittee is also concerned with the training and experience requirements for Coast Guard servicemen and women, as well as whether the Service is properly aligned to successfully conduct its critical missions in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. A structural reorganization has gone through several iterations in the last seven years, and the Subcommittee will examine the final outcome of these organizational changes.

The Coast Guard must assure the safety, as well as the security, of the Nation's maritime commerce every day. Failure to provide adequate resources to the Coast Guard's marine safety and environmental stewardship programs are as much of a threat to the United States' economic interests as failure to provide adequate resources for maritime security.

In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Coast Guard's mission balance and alignment to ensure the Service maintains and appropriately distributes the necessary resources, expertise, and organizational structure to successfully conduct all of its critical missions.

4. Maritime Domain Awareness. In order to prevent accidents, protect U.S. borders, and effectively respond to incidents in the waters under the control of the United States, the Coast Guard must maintain Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). In other words, the Service must have real time knowledge of the location and intention of vessels operating in U.S. waters, as well as such

other background information as weather, tides, and currents. MDA requires access to many sources of data, including visual observations, weather predictions, long-range vessel tracking information, and data provided by vessel-based transponders. The integration of these data sources into a "Common Operating Picture" shared by shore-side facilities, ships, and aircraft, forms the basis of the Coast Guard's future plans to deploy its assets more wisely and cost effectively, while also improving safety and security of our maritime transportation system.

The Coast Guard relies on several new and developing technologies to assist in implementing MDA. The Subcommittee has been concerned with delays in fielding these new technologies, cost overruns, the development of seemingly duplicative systems, performance failures, and poor contract management. The Subcommittee is also concerned that plans to upgrade command, control, communication, computer, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, popularly known as C4ISR, are not achieving the level of integration needed to fully take advantage of existing and rapidly improving sensor and communication technologies.

In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the Service's development and implementation of MDA to ensure the best system is fielded in a timely manner and at the best price for the American taxpayers.

5. Maritime Transportation Safety. Over the next year, the Coast Guard will be implementing or proposing new regulations intended to improve the safety of commercial fishing vessels and towing vessels, as well as to enhance the mariner credentialing and fitness determination process. The Service may also propose new safety regulations on cruise vessels in the wake of the COSTA CONCORDIA marine casualty. Finally, later this year, the Coast Guard is expected to publish a major new rule governing the deployment of electronic readers for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC).

The recently enacted Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act modified some of these rulemakings to afford the Coast Guard adequate time to fairly enforce them. In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue oversight of the Coast Guard's regulatory program to ensure these regulations improve the safety of the maritime transportation system without unduly increasing costs and undermining job growth in the maritime industry.

6. Marine Environmental Protection. In recent years, the Coast Guard and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have implemented several new regulations governing the transportation of oil and other hazardous substances on water; air emissions from vessels; and the discharge from vessels of plastics, ballast water, and over 25 other "discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel," such as bilge water, deck wash, and air conditioning condensate. In addition, over 25 states have put in place regulations to govern ballast water and other incidental discharges. Many of these new requirements are inconsistent, costly, and burdensome. If not properly addressed, these regulations could significantly complicate vessel operations, drive up costs, threaten jobs, and impede the flow of commerce along our coasts, the Great Lakes, and inland rivers.

In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of these regulations. The Subcommittee will also work to address the challenges posed by these new regulations and ensure the efficient movement of maritime commerce, defend seafaring and port jobs, and protect the environment.

7. Oil Spill Prevention and Response. In fiscal year 2012, the Coast Guard received over 32,000 reports of an oil or hazardous materials spill. The Service continues to respond to the April 2010 explosion and sinking of the DEEPWATER HORIZON and has deployed assets to the Arctic to oversee permitted drilling activities.

In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue oversight of oil spill prevention laws and regulations, as well as the Coast Guard's capability to respond to such incidents. The Subcommittee will work to ensure the Nation's oil spill prevention and response capabilities protect human lives and the environment while protecting U.S. jobs.

8. Port and Vessel Security. On an annual basis, U.S. ports handle more than 2 billion tons of freight, 3 billion barrels of oil, more than 134 million ferry passengers, and more than 7 million cruise ship passengers. Approximately 7,500 foreign ships, manned by 200,000 foreign sailors, enter U.S. ports every year to offload approximately six million truck-size cargo containers onto U.S. docks. Additionally, many of these seaports are critical military strategic sealift ports whose availability must be constantly assured.

There are 361 public ports in the United States that handle over 95 percent of U.S. overseas trade. The top 50 ports in the United States account for over 90 percent of total cargo tonnage. Twenty-five U.S. ports account for over 98 percent of all container shipments. Cruise ships visiting foreign destinations embark from at least 16 U.S. ports. Generally, ports are often very open and exposed and are potentially susceptible to large-scale acts of terrorism that could cause catastrophic loss of life and economic disruption.

In 2002, Congress enacted the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA), now chapter 701 of title 46, United Sates Code. The measure establishes a comprehensive national maritime transportation security system; requires the Coast Guard to conduct vulnerability assessments of U.S. ports; requires the Coast Guard to develop national and regional area maritime transportation security plans; requires seaports, waterfront terminals, and certain types of vessels to develop security and incident response plans for the Coast Guard; and requires the Coast Guard to conduct an antiterrorism assessment of certain foreign ports. Vessel and facility plans went into effect on July 1, 2004.

MTSA also established the TWIC program to ensure that transportation workers who have access to secure areas of maritime facilities do not pose a terrorism security risk. The Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006 (SAFE Port Act) set deadlines for the deployment of TWIC to workers and the installation of TWIC reader devices at access points to secure areas. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Coast Guard missed the July 30, 2007, deadline to begin the deployment of TWIC and did not begin deployment of the credentials until October 2007. The TSA also missed the April 2009 deadline for the installation of

TWIC readers. The Coast Guard does not anticipate issuing final rules for the installation of readers until 2013.

In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight of these critical security issues with the goal of providing the highest level of security possible that does not impede the efficient flow of maritime commerce or interrupt employment opportunities in the maritime sector.

9. Piracy. In 2012, pirates in the waters off the Horn of Africa captured 13 commercial vessels and held over 200 merchant seamen hostage. Although these numbers have fallen in recent months, the pirates continue their violent attacks on vessels transiting those waters. Pirates are using larger vessels, more advanced weaponry, and traveling further into the Indian Ocean to intercept vessels traveling outside the regular shipping lanes. Ransoms are increasing and reports indicate that conditions for hostages are worsening. Incidents of piracy are also on the rise in the Gulf of Guinea off the coast of Nigeria further impacting commercial shipping around the African continent.

In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue oversight of this issue. The Subcommittee will work to find ways to improve the security of U.S. seafarers, their vessels, and their cargo as they transit these high-risk waters.

10. Arctic Transportation. The percentage of the Arctic Circle covered in ice during the summer months continues to shrink. As a result, waters previously blocked by ice have become navigable in the summer. This opens opportunities for ships to transit between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the Northwest Passage and the Northern Sea Route. It may also ease the difficulties faced in extracting potential oil and gas resources, as well as expand fishing and tourism activities.

As the ice cap recedes, human presence in the Arctic may expand. The Coast Guard will likely need to deal with a growing caseload of search and rescue, marine pollution response, law enforcement, and defense missions. The Service currently lacks the infrastructure or assets required for extended operations in the Arctic.

In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of these issues. The Subcommittee will work to find ways to improve the safety and security of Arctic transportation routes, as well as enhance Coast Guard presence in the region in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

11. Federal Maritime Commission, Maritime Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Budget and Programs. The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) and the non-defense related programs of the Maritime Administration (MARAD). The FMC is responsible for the economic regulation of waterborne foreign commerce and unfair shipping practices. MARAD oversees several programs related to defense readiness, as well as programs designed to promote and develop the domestic merchant marine industry. The Subcommittee also has jurisdiction over the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Response and Restoration (ORR). ORR provides technical and scientific assistance in the response to, and environmental restoration

from, oil and hazardous material spills. It also administers the Marine Debris Program. The Subcommittee is also interested in NOAA programs that acquire and distribute data necessary for the safe operation of the Maritime Transportation System.

Each of these agencies is operating under a fiscal year 2013 continuing resolution which expires March 27, 2013. In fiscal year 2012, these agencies had a combined budget of over $399 million.

In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight of the FMC, MARAD, and ORR. The Subcommittee will explore ways to promote job growth in the domestic fleet, while improving operations and reducing costs at these agencies.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Federal Courthouses. In June of 2010, GAO issued a report on the Federal courthouse program and found that of the 33 courthouses built since 2000, there was 3.56 million square feet of extra space, costing the taxpayer $835 million plus $51 million annually to operate and maintain. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the authorization of new Federal courthouses, encourage the full implementation of courtroom sharing formulae, and place strict requirements on any proposed courthouses to minimize overbuilding and reduce costs. The Subcommittee will also closely oversee the progress made on courthouses already authorized to ensure they are constructed within the limitations placed upon them by the Committee and to ensure they stay below or within budget. The Subcommittee will also work to ensure that courthouse construction projects include credible judgeship projections; courtroom sharing in a robust and efficient fashion in accordance with the empirical courtroom use data collected by the Federal Judicial Center; and faithful adherence by the General Services Administration (GSA) to congressionally authorized square-footage limitations, as well as dollar limitations, when executing projects.

2. Leasing. On or about July 17, 2012, GSA entered into a lease agreement to occupy space on six floors at One World Trade Center. The lease agreement includes an initial lease term of 20 years starting in 2015 at a rent of approximately $17.5 million per year for a total of $351.4 million over the initial term of the lease. The lease also includes four 15-year renewal options. GSA entered into this lease agreement despite the fact that a resolution approving the lease had not yet been adopted by the Committee.

While a prospectus as required by the Public Buildings Act was submitted to the Committee on June 6, 2012, the prospectus did not include a customary housing plan, identifying the proposed tenant agencies for the leased space and indicating how GSA proposed utilizing the space. Notwithstanding that the Committee had not passed a Committee resolution approving the lease or the fact GSA had submitted an incomplete prospectus, GSA obligated the government to more than $350 million. This broke decades of legal precedent. Subsequently, former Chairman Mica, former Subcommittee Chairman Denham and former Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services Chairwoman Jo Ann Emerson requested GSA provide a written legal analysis and briefing explaining the basis for GSA to sign the lease.

In the 113th Congress, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of GSA to ensure effective oversight of GSA's authority to enter into leases that bind the taxpayer to significant sums of money.

During the 112th Congress, problems with independent leasing authorities of agencies outside of GSA were made apparent. In 2010, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which has its own independent leasing authority, signed a sole-source 10-year lease for a state of the art building, binding the taxpayer to more than $500 million. Not long after signing the lease, SEC determined it did not need the space. The Subcommittee conducted an investigation and held hearings that revealed serious questions about SEC's management of its space and its leasing authority. In prior years, the Committee has also found similar mismanagement by other agencies, including the NTSB, in which poor decisions on leases resulted in taxpayer dollars being wasted. As a result, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of leases outside of GSA.

3. Real Property Management. The management of Federal Real Property has been on the GAO's "high risk" list since 2003 due to a number of mismanagement issues, including the overreliance on costly leasing to meet long-term space needs and the overabundance of underused or vacant space. In addition, with nearly half of GSA's assets over 50 years old, GSA has faced challenges maintaining a balanced inventory, draining Federal resources and costing more to maintain old buildings that are often inefficient. At the same time, GSA continues to over-rely on expensive new commercial leases that very often result in the taxpayer paying for a building several times over without any ownership interest. The Office of Management and Budget's budget scorekeeping rules are key drivers on "own vs. lease" asset decision-making. Current budget scorekeeping rules generally leave GSA with only two options for meeting the Federal Government's general purpose space needs: direct appropriations for new construction or long-term leases. In addition, with the tight budget constraints and the lack of funds for new construction, GSA has begun exploring alternative arrangements for space acquisition and redevelopment.

The Subcommittee will continue to conduct investigations and oversight of GSA's management of its real property portfolio and examine ways to ensure cost-effective choices are made. In addition, the Subcommittee will work to ensure GSA maximizes the utilization of existing space, renegotiates existing leases to reduce costs, and sells under-used or vacant properties that will generate revenue. Finally, the Subcommittee will work to ensure GSA fully utilizes its enhanced property management authority to make better use of space it retains, such as out-leasing empty Federal space to generate income for GSA's Federal Buildings Fund (FBF) and help offset costs, but will conduct close oversight of GSA's use of these authorities to ensure they are managed and used appropriately.

4. Federal Buildings Fund. Congress established the FBF with the intent of making GSA's management of space self-financed. Federal agencies who are tenants in GSA-owned or managed facilities, generally, pay rent to GSA for use of the space. Those funds are deposited into the FBF, which then is used to reinvest in GSA's assets for repairs and maintenance, as well as for

construction or purchasing of new property. With nearly half of GSA's assets over 50 years old coupled with the increase in commercial leasing to fill space needs, serious questions have been raised regarding the viability of the FBF in the future. Old assets drain the resources of the FBF in repair and maintenance costs.

In addition, the administrative expenses of GSA's Public Buildings Service (PBS) are paid out of the FBF. There has been little or no transparency in how PBS spends its administrative funds. The scandals related to conferences and bonuses and GSA's inability to fully respond to Committee questions about how it budgets for such activities have revealed the potential for significant waste. As a result, the Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight of PBS's administrative costs and take steps to ensure greater transparency and accountability.

5. Capital Investment and Leasing Program. As part of the Committee's annual work to review and authorize GSA's requests for authority to repair, alter, construct, and lease property for use by Federal agencies, the Subcommittee will review each prospectus presented to the Committee and recommend approval only after the Subcommittee is satisfied that the requests are cost-effective and in the best interest of the government. The Subcommittee will work aggressively with GSA and tenant agencies to shrink the space footprint.

6. Federal Protective Service. As a part of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the Federal Protective Service (FPS) was transferred from the Public Buildings Service of GSA to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). However, responsibility for the protection of Federal buildings, generally, remains with the GSA. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor and review the policies, procedures, and requirements of security at public buildings, including a review of the implementation of these policies, procedures, and requirements of the FPS.

7. Major Development Projects. The construction of the DHS headquarters is a multi-billion dollar Federal construction project that, when completed, will relocate much of DHS operations in the District of Columbia area into one campus located at the historic Saint Elizabeths Hospital site in the Southeast quadrant of the District of Columbia. Currently, the construction of the Coast Guard headquarters is underway at the site. In addition, various DHS components remain in leased space until the phased construction is completed. The Subcommittee plans to continue close oversight of this major project and its associated leases to guard against waste, and ensure jobs are maintained and created accordingly throughout the project.

In addition, there are a number of other major construction and development projects proposed, underway, or anticipated by the GSA, including a proposal for a new FBI headquarters, the redevelopment of Federal Triangle South, and the redevelopment of the Old Post Office. The Subcommittee plans to conduct close review and oversight of these major development projects.

8. Architect of the Capitol. The Subcommittee will continue ongoing oversight of projects being undertaken by the Architect of the Capitol, including redevelopment of the Federal Office Building 8 as well as other development pursuant to the Master Plan for the

Capitol Complex. Consistent oversight will ensure proper prioritization and cost savings.

9. Smithsonian Institution Facilities. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of projects undertaken by the Smithsonian Institution including the acquisition, construction, and use of local and remote museum, research, and storage facilities of the Institution. The Subcommittee will continue to ensure the cost-effective solutions to the Smithsonian's space needs such as leveraging private dollars and disposal or effective reuse of underused assets. In addition, the Smithsonian is currently in the process of constructing the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Continued oversight of the construction is important to ensure the project stays within budget and on schedule.

10. John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As a part of its ongoing oversight of the Kennedy Center's programs, the Subcommittee will regularly review the construction, alteration, and modernization activities of the Kennedy Center that are conducted using Federal funds to ensure appropriate management and cost savings.

11. Economic Development Administration. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) was created in 1965 by the Public Works and Economic Development Act to leverage Federal funding to help spur economic growth in areas that are experiencing: chronic high unemployment, out-migration, and severe economic dislocations due to plant closings and natural disasters. Over the years, EDA's programs have generated new, permanent jobs with minimal Federal investment. For example, reviews of EDA's programs have revealed that its programs, on average, create jobs at a cost of $4,000 per job. In addition, studies have shown that $1 invested by EDA attracts $11 in private or other public funding. The leveraging of Federal dollars ensures that projects funded are viable and include a private interest that will ensure the jobs created are long-lasting. In preparation for EDA's reauthorization, the Subcommittee will continue to oversee EDA programs to ensure they continue to leverage private dollars and create jobs. The Subcommittee will also identify and remove regulatory stovepipes that add costs and administrative hurdles to job creation.

12. Appalachian Regional Commission. The Subcommittee will closely examine the activities of the Appalachian Regional Commission including how it meets the needs of distressed counties in Appalachia, how it uses new and innovative ways to promote economic development, and its track record of success since its last reauthorization to ensure, as with EDA, projects funded result in economic growth and job creation.

13. Other Regional Economic Development Authorities. The Subcommittee will closely examine the activities of the other established development authorities, which are the Denali Commission, Delta Regional Authority, Northern Great Plains Regional Authority, Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, Southwest Border Regional Commission, and Northern Border Regional Commission. The Subcommittee will review these commissions and identify ways to streamline these programs and reduce any overlap to produce cost savings.

14. Emergency Management. The Subcommittee intends to undertake a review and assessment of the Nation's ability to prevent, prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies of all types including terrorism. In the 113th Congress, continued oversight will be needed as states continue to recover from prior disasters, such as Hurricane Sandy. In addition, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the implementation of reforms to the national preparedness system by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as required under the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, as well as its oversight of FEMA's development of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

1. MAP–21 Implementation. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP–21) reauthorized Federal surface transportation programs for the first time since 2005. Enacted in July of 2012, MAP–21 represents an investment in the Nation's transportation infrastructure that translates into safer travel, more efficient commerce, faster project approval and delivery, and the creation of thousands of jobs. A large part of the Subcommittee's oversight activities in the 113th Congress will focus on implementation of MAP–21, specifically in the following areas:

• **Streamlining Project Delivery.** MAP–21 reformed the project approval and delivery process for transportation and infrastructure projects. Time delays and inefficiencies in project delivery not only postpone needed improvements in our Nation's transportation infrastructure, but often result in increases in the cost of projects. MAP–21 streamlined this process by: allowing Federal agencies to carry out their obligations for a project concurrently with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review for that project; instituting a financial penalty to each Federal agency that misses a deadline as part of the NEPA environmental review process; and providing categorical exclusions from the NEPA process for repair or reconstruction of an existing facility damaged by an emergency, for projects within the right-of-way, and for projects that receive limited Federal funding. Most significantly, MAP–21 requires that all environmental reviews for a project be completed within four years. The Subcommittee will monitor and evaluate DOT's implementation of these project delivery provisions.

• **Program Consolidation and Elimination.** MAP–21 consolidated or eliminated nearly seventy DOT programs. Many of these programs served similar purposes and several of them were no longer necessary because the nature of our transportation system has changed over time. By consolidating some DOT programs and eliminating others, MAP–21 allows DOT to become more effective and efficient. The Subcommittee will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of program consolidation, as well as the organizational and staffing level changes at DOT, to ensure the agencies are structured and staffed in a way that is consistent with the changes made in MAP–21.

• **Performance and Accountability.** MAP–21 emphasized performance management by incorporating performance measures into the highway, transit, and highway safety programs. These perform-

ance measures will provide a more efficient Federal investment by focusing Federal funding on national transportation goals, increasing accountability and transparency, and improving transportation planning and project selection. These changes require state DOTs, localities, and public transit agencies to consider performance objectives in their transportation plans and project selection. The Subcommittee will monitor DOT's implementation of these performance management requirements, as well as the ability of states and public transit agencies to accurately collect and utilize relevant performance data.

• **Efficient Movement of Freight.** The United States economy relies heavily on the surface transportation network for the efficient movement of freight. MAP–21 recognizes the importance of freight movement to all aspects of American life and incentivizes projects that improve freight movement by increasing the Federal share for such projects. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of freight-related issues and the relevant provisions in MAP–21 to determine whether the surface transportation network is adequately accommodating current and future freight movement needs.

• **New Starts.** MAP–21 streamlines the project development process for the New Starts program by setting time limits on environmental reviews and consolidating the steps the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) must take in the project approval process. The Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight on FTA's management of the New Starts program to ensure that the MAP–21 reforms are implemented in a way that expedites the lengthy process of moving a new fixed guideway transit project through development and into construction. The Subcommittee will also monitor the New Starts program to determine whether further reforms are warranted.

• **Transit Safety Oversight.** Statistically, rail transit is among the safest modes of transportation. However, there have been some high profile rail transit accidents resulting in fatalities and injuries around the country in recent years. MAP–21 included several provisions related to transit safety. Rather than granting FTA broad regulatory authority, MAP–21 built on the transit State Safety Oversight model that was already established in law and provided a dedicated stream of Federal funding for the state agencies that oversee the safety of rail transit systems. MAP–21 also required each recipient of Federal transit funding to institute a public transportation agency safety plan before it can obligate Federal funding. The Subcommittee will closely oversee FTA's implementation of the transit safety provisions in MAP–21 to ensure that it is being done in a way that is consistent with Congressional intent.

• **Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program.** MAP–21 establishes a public transportation emergency relief program to fund transit projects that have suffered damage as a result of a natural disaster or a catastrophic failure. This program may also fund transit operating expenses in areas impacted by a disaster or catastrophic failure if the area meets certain eligibility criteria. In October 2012, Hurricane Sandy caused substantial damage to transit systems in New Jersey and New York. However, in October 2012 FTA was still in the process of implementing the provisions in MAP–21 establishing the Public Transportation Emergency Re-

lief program. The Subcommittee will oversee the implementation of the Public Transportation Emergency Relief program to ensure that the program is being established and implemented in accordance with Congressional intent and to ensure that the funding distributed through the program meets the eligibility requirements in law. The Subcommittee will also evaluate funding expenditures from the Public Transportation Emergency Relief program to determine whether projects to mitigate the impacts of future disasters should be funded through the Emergency Relief program or through other FTA programs.

2. Sustainability of Surface Transportation Programs. The Federal highway, highway safety, and public transportation programs are user-fee financed through Federal excise taxes levied on motor fuels and on various highway-related products such as tires and heavy trucks. Revenues from these user fees are deposited into the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) and may be used only for eligible transportation projects and activities. Current projections show that the cash balances in the HTF's Highway Account will be depleted sometime in fiscal year 2015, while the HTF's Mass Transit Account will be depleted at some point late in fiscal year 2014. The Subcommittee will monitor the status and solvency of the HTF, and its ability to fully fund the programs authorized under MAP–21 and to meet future surface transportation investment needs.

3. Innovative Financing. In order to provide the greatest number of project financing options to state DOTs, Congress has focused on implementing innovative financing measures. The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program, tolling options, and public-private partnerships (PPPs) are all tools that state DOTs can use when capitalizing surface transportation projects. The Subcommittee will continue to evaluate and determine the proper role that innovative financing tools and private investment may play in financing transportation projects and the factors that should be considered in making such determinations. The Subcommittee will also assess the extent to which states and localities are already using innovative techniques to finance projects and the extent to which states and localities have the fiscal and technical capacity to take advantage of these innovative financing options.

• **Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act.** MAP–21 amended the TIFIA program in order to increase the impact and efficacy of these funds. MAP–21 increased the eligible Federal share of TIFIA projects to 49 percent, increased the amount of TIFIA funds to $1.75 billion over two years, made key reforms to ensure that funds were more readily available for projects that qualify for the TIFIA program, and eliminated the unofficial political "super-qualifications" that were sometimes imposed on TIFIA applications. The Subcommittee will monitor how these changes are implemented and determine whether any further amendments are necessary to maximize the usefulness of this program, as well as DOT's management of the program and oversight of projects receiving TIFIA credit assistance.

• **Tolling.** MAP–21 also expanded the ability of states to collect toll revenue from facilities on the Federal-aid highway system. Specifically, any project that adds new lane capacity to the Interstate

System can be tolled. States continue to have the ability to toll roads that are not on the Interstate System. Toll revenues can be used for debt service for the project, operating costs of the toll facility, or, if the toll facility is adequately maintained, then the revenue can be used for any other highway or transit project for which Federal funds may be used. The Subcommittee will evaluate how DOT is implementing the tolling provisions in MAP–21 and how states use this expanded tolling authority and determine whether any further changes are warranted.

• **Innovative Finance Guidance to State and Local Governments.** MAP–21 requires that DOT develop best practices for how state and local governments can work with the private sector to develop, finance, construct, and operate surface transportation projects in a manner that advances the public interest. While the decision to pursue a PPP is a state or local decision, MAP–21 requires DOT to provide technical assistance to states and local officials who are interested in pursuing PPPs for transportation projects. The Subcommittee will monitor DOT to ensure that they are providing requisite guidance to state and local governments interested in PPPs.

4. Transportation Planning and Major Construction Projects. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of statewide and metropolitan transportation planning, as well as major highway and transit construction projects. The Subcommittee will analyze the board structure of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to determine whether they contain a requisite level of technical expertise. Furthermore, the Subcommittee will examine the relationship between MPOs and state DOTs and public transit agencies to determine the appropriate level of interaction and cooperation between these three entities. As part of the Subcommittee's oversight of transportation planning, major surface transportation construction projects will also be examined to ensure that the planned cost for these projects is not being overrun. Many of the Nation's largest transportation projects experience significant cost overruns, and the Subcommittee will investigate these overruns to determine if they are due to changes in the construction market, project mismanagement, or other causes.

5. Compliance, Safety, Accountability Program. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) identified limitations in its compliance and enforcement model used to measure the safety performance of motor carriers and target carriers for enforcement by the agency. On December 13, 2010, FMCSA launched its new Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) Program, which uses existing safety data collected by FMCSA and state agencies to better target enforcement activities at truck and bus companies that have a history of safety violations. FMCSA believes that CSA will allow them to "do more with less" by identifying high risk companies, focusing resources where they are most needed, and improving the safety records of those companies. During the 112th Congress, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the effectiveness of the CSA program and the impacts on truck and bus companies. As a result of the hearing, the Subcommittee requested an audit of the program by the DOT's Inspector General. The requested date for

completion of the audit is late 2013, and the Subcommittee will continue to monitor developments with the CSA program.

6. Hours of Service. Since 1937, the Federal Government has set limits on the number of hours commercial drivers may be on duty and spend behind the wheel in order to promote the safety of truck and bus operations. On January 4, 2003, in response to a Congressional mandate enacted in 1995, FMCSA published new hours-of-service (HOS) regulations for all property-carrying interstate motor carrier operators. The HOS rules have been the subject of ongoing litigation since 2003. On December 27, 2011, FMCSA issued a final rule revising the HOS requirements for commercial truck drivers. The new HOS final rule limits a truck driver's work week to 70 hours and stipulates that drivers cannot drive after working eight hours without first taking a break of at least 30 minutes. In addition, the rule requires truck drivers to take a "34-hour restart" in order to restart the clock on their work week. The "34-hour restart" provision must overlap during two periods between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. The new HOS regulations become effective on July 1, 2013. The trucking industry has raised concerns that the proposed changes are overly complex, potentially reducing productivity. Law enforcement personnel have questioned whether the rules will require additional training for effective enforcement. The Subcommittee will maintain close oversight of the rulemaking process to ensure it furthers FMCSA's primary mission of safety, while ensuring the efficient movement of freight throughout the U.S. economy.

7. Highway Safety and Traffic Fatalities and Injuries. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported that highway fatalities fell to 32,367 in 2011, marking the lowest level since 1949 and a 1.9 percent decrease from the previous year. This represents a 26 percent decline in traffic fatalities overall since 2005. However, fatalities increased in 2011 among large truck occupants (20 percent), bicyclists (8.7 percent), pedestrians (3.0 percent), and motorcycle riders (2.1 percent). Highway fatalities have high societal costs. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) estimates, the average cost of a roadway fatality is $6 million and the average cost of a roadway injury is $126,000. The Subcommittee will monitor the efforts and effectiveness of programs carried out by NHTSA, FMCSA and FHWA to improve highway safety.

8. Innovative Technologies. The Subcommittee will provide oversight on the development and demonstration of new transportation technologies that improve efficiency and safety on our Nation's highways and transit systems. Research in this area will help create jobs by encouraging development of sophisticated technologies that many state DOTs and localities could implement on their roads, transit systems, and bridges. Implementation of these technologies can improve operational performance of the surface transportation network, which allows for the better use of the existing capacity on roads and transit systems. DOT is currently researching connected vehicle technologies, which are designed to increase situational awareness and reduce or eliminate crashes through vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure data transmission that supports: driver advisories, driver warnings, and vehi-

cle and infrastructure controls. The Subcommittee will monitor developments in this area and ensure that such developments maximize the efficiency of the Nation's transportation system and the safety of its users to ensure the research carried out under these programs achieves the objectives established by Congress, and is being conducted and deployed in an effective manner.

9. Research Structure at the Department of Transportation. The Department of Transportation's research, development, and technology program is established to foster innovations leading to effective, integrated, and intermodal transportation solutions. MAP–21 established the following objectives for DOT research activities: improving highway safety, improving infrastructure integrity, strengthening transportation planning and environmental decision making, reducing congestion, improving highway operation, enhancing freight productivity, and exploratory advanced research. The Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) oversees the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) program. RITA's Joint Program Office has Department-wide authority in coordinating the ITS program and initiatives among FHWA, FMCSA, FTA, and NHTSA, as well as the Federal Railroad Administration, and the Maritime Administration. Research activities at DOT are scattered among many different agencies and offices. Concerns have been raised in regards to how this structure affects the overall research effectiveness of the Department. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight activities to determine the appropriate way to administer the Department's research programs.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

1. DOT Fiscal Year 2014 and 2015 Budgets. The Subcommittee will review and evaluate the fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015 budget proposals for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Amtrak, the Surface Transportation Board, the Railroad Retirement Board, the National Mediation Board, and the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

2. Reauthorization of the Federal Railroad Administration's Safety Program. The FRA's rail safety program was last authorized in the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA), which expires at the end of fiscal year 2013. In preparation for reauthorizing the FRA safety programs, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight on FRA's enforcement and rulemaking activities since the last authorization in RSIA, as well as the various safety laws that govern railroad operations.

3. Reauthorization of the Federal Railroad Administration's Rail Infrastructure Programs. The FRA also administers several rail infrastructure programs, including the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) loan program, the High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) program, and the Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Capital Grant (RLR) program. RRIF is a direct and guaranteed loan program for rail and rail-intermodal infrastructure projects with $35 billion in loan authority. The HSIPR program is a consolidation of two capital grant programs authorized in the Passenger Rail Investment and Im-

provement Act of 2008 (PRIIA)—the intercity passenger rail service grants to states, and the high-speed rail corridor development grants. These programs were appropriated a total of $10.1 billion and 99 percent of the funds have been obligated as of December 2012. The RLR program is a state grant program to aid in the mitigation of adverse effects caused by the presence of rail infrastructure. A total of $90 million has been appropriated to the program and all funding has been awarded. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of these rail infrastructure programs, with a view toward reauthorization.

4. Reauthorization of Amtrak. The Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 fundamentally altered the statutory status of Amtrak, a corporation, by freeing Amtrak from a variety of detailed statutory restrictions governing the company's route system, capital structure, labor relations, and corporate governance. In 2008, PRIIA established more reforms and operational improvements along with authorizing appropriations for Amtrak capital grants, operating grants, and the Amtrak Inspector General. The Subcommittee will examine various aspects of Amtrak's performance with a view to reauthorization.

5. Pipeline Safety Programs. The Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 reauthorized Federal pipeline safety programs through fiscal year 2015. It provides for enhanced safety and reliability in pipeline transportation and ensures regulatory certainty, which will help create a positive environment for job development. The legislation was enacted on January 3, 2012. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Office of Pipeline Safety at PHMSA regarding implementation of the Act.

6. Hazardous Materials Safety Programs. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP–21) reauthorized PHMSA's hazardous materials safety programs. MAP–21 secured regulatory reforms, enhanced hazardous materials safety and enforcement, improved training, data collection, and research. As PHMSA's Office of Hazardous Materials Safety continues implementation of MAP–21, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight on that progress.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Clean Water Act and Water Infrastructure Programs. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of wastewater treatment and water pollution control funding issues, including levels and sources of funding and management of grant and loan programs; wastewater security; and infrastructure needs. Oversight also will include a review of the effectiveness of watershed, market, and performance-based approaches to addressing local water pollution concerns; issues involving the development and implementation of total maximum daily loads, water quality standards, effluent limitations, and permitting; nutrients policies under the Clean Water Act; data quality issues; and continued efforts to improve the management of combined and sanitary sewer overflows, stormwater, and nonpoint source pollution. Additionally, the Subcommittee's oversight will include a review of the Environmental Protection Agency's implementation of integrated approaches to municipal stormwater and wastewater management through EPA's integrated

planning approach framework. The Subcommittee will investigate whether non-regulatory approaches, such as market-based approaches and other innovative approaches undertaken by state and local governments, may result in improvements to the environment. The Subcommittee may review the implications of addressing certain pollutant discharges, including discharges of pesticides, ballast water, incidental discharges from vessels, stormwater, and water transfers, through traditional Clean Water Act permitting requirements.

Continued improvement of water quality will likely require a combination of regulatory and non-regulatory approaches, as well as continued investment in water infrastructure programs. The Subcommittee will pursue and examine finding innovative ways to finance new and replacement of old water infrastructure projects; providing states, counties, and towns with additional tools and flexibility to address local environmental challenges; and demanding increased efficiency from Federal expenditures.

2. Army Corps of Engineers Water Resources Program. The Subcommittee will review efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization and the management and mission of the civil works program of the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), including the selection, planning, and implementation of water resources projects; financing of harbor and inland waterways infrastructure, and utilization of large, medium, and small harbors; the backlog of uninitiated Corps construction projects, including prioritization of projects; asset management of projects in its operation and maintenance account, including existing and future levels of service; and efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and consistent implementation of the Agency's regulatory programs, including those pertaining to wetlands (including the scope and procedural and substantive requirements of the permitting programs) and dredging activities. The Subcommittee will review the Corps' implementation of provisions of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, including those that were intended to streamline the project planning process.

Continued investments in our Nation's infrastructure will create jobs and support a healthy economy. The Subcommittee will focus on getting projects for the Nation built more efficiently and cost effectively, thereby more quickly delivering project benefits to the public, while ensuring compliance with existing planning and environmental laws.

3. EPA—Superfund/Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and Brownfields. The Subcommittee will review efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the contaminated site cleanup process and the process of assessing natural resources damages; review the liability, financing, and settlement mechanisms and procedures under the current Superfund program, including implementation of the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act; review the role of the states in conducting and financing cleanups; review the relationships among the states, EPA, and other Federal entities in implementing the Superfund/Brownfields program; and review ongoing Federal, state, and local efforts to revitalize

brownfields, including implementation of the expired Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act.

Brownfields and Superfund sites drive down property values and tax revenues and are a major blight on many of our cities and towns. The Subcommittee will work to promote state, local, and private efforts to clean up and redevelop Superfund and brownfields sites.

4. Tennessee Valley Authority. The Subcommittee will review the management of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and its programs, including its energy program and operations in the current marketplace and the impact of TVA debt on its long-term goals.

Until mid-2006, the Tennessee Valley Authority had made significant payments on its long-term debt in an attempt to reduce its total financing obligations. Since 2006, however, TVA's debt has begun to steadily climb to levels that may place the taxpayer at risk. TVA's debt is statutorily capped at $30 billion and at the end of fiscal year 2012 carried just over $25 billion in total debt. The Subcommittee will initiate a review of TVA's commitment to long-term financial sustainability to lessen the risk posed to bondholders, ratepayers, and the taxpayer.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

OVERSIGHT AGENDA

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducts its oversight with the help of four Subcommittees: Oversight and Investigations; Economic Opportunity; Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs; and Health. It is expected that oversight of the issues outlined below will be a shared responsibility of both the full Committee and the appropriate Subcommittees.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

1. Licensing and Certification Barriers—The inability of servicemembers to quickly translate skills learned in the military to post-service employment remains a serious impediment to getting qualified workers into civilian-equivalent jobs. The Committee will continue to oversee the efforts of the Departments of Labor and Defense in working with States and credentialing bodies to break down these barriers.

2. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)—In evaluating VETS' programs, the Committee will focus on interagency cooperation between VETS and the Department of Veterans Affairs' Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VRE) program to assess the effectiveness of combined efforts to place disabled veterans into jobs. We will also take a detailed look at the performance of the State Grant Program with an emphasis on promoting more consistent results. The Committee will also look into the overall effectiveness and timeliness of the information provided by employment assistance programs to veterans.

The Committee will oversee the redesign of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) for those leaving military service. Specifically, we intend to conduct a continuing review of the content of TAP provided under the mandatory attendance provisions of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. The Committee will continue to conduct on-site visits to observe TAP classes and to gauge revision and deployment of the TAP curriculum.

3. Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment—VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VRE) program provides veterans with service-connected disabilities the ability to obtain and maintain suitable employment, and enables certain other disabled veterans to achieve independence in daily living. The Committee will examine VRE's recent efforts to implement its 5-track program throughout the 57 regional offices. We will also focus on VRE's referral of rehabilitated veterans to the state employment services for job placement.

4. Employment of National Guard and Reserve Members—The Committee will review the efforts of the Department of Labor and VA in facilitating employment opportunities to veterans, with a focus on recently separated service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, including demobilizing Reserve and National Guard personnel.

5. Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)—The Committee will continue to provide oversight of SCRA compliance, with emphasis upon violations by financial institutions overcharging on mortgages, improperly foreclosing, and depriving military families of the protections afforded under SCRA.

6. GI Bill—The Committee will continue monitoring VA's efforts to implement the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance with an emphasis on simplifying administration of the benefit. We will also examine ways to improve the delivery of all veterans' and survivors' education benefits. The Committee will also explore efforts to track long-term outcomes as well as compile data regarding the transferability of benefits.

7. Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)—Under the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, VRAP offers up to 12 months of training for in-demand occupations to 99,000 unemployed veterans between 35 and 60 years old. The Committee will conduct continuing oversight of the roles of the state employment agencies, the Department of Labor, and VA in the application, approval and enrollment, and training of participants. Most importantly, we will monitor whether veterans who have been trained through VRAP actually receive employment in the high-demand jobs for which they've been trained.

8. Reserve Component Transition Assistance and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)—USERRA ensures that Guard and Reserve members are able to return to their civilian jobs following deployment. The Committee will assess the effectiveness of USERRA with special emphasis on employers' willingness to hire National Guard and Reserve members and employment-related issues related to returning to the workforce following activation, as well as issues related enforcement.

9. State Approving Agencies (SAA)—SAAs approve educational programs to ensure that veterans' GI Bill resources are used only for legitimate purposes. The Committee will examine the SAAs' performance in ensuring compliance with VA policies and procedures, as well as educating school personnel, preventing fraud, and discovering questionable recruiting practices. We will examine how SAAs can become more accountable for the funding they receive from VA.

10. Small Business Contracting Goals for Veteran and Service-Connected Disabled Business Owners—Overall, the Federal government continues to fall short in meeting the three percent procurement goal for service disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSB). In 2006, Congress passed Public Law 109–461 which provided SDVOSB and veteran-owned small businesses (VOSB) several advantages in contracting with VA as well as additional tools for VA to contract with SDVOSB and VOSB. The Com-

mittee will continue its oversight of VA's progress implementing the small business provisions of P.L. 109–461.

11. VA Loan Guaranty Program—The Committee will review veterans' loan programs to determine whether existing laws, regulations and VA initiatives are sufficient to reduce foreclosures on veteran-owned homes. The Committee will include the views of the mortgage industry and other real estate experts to see if improvements can be made to the existing system including additional protections for mortgagors. We will also review VA operations in the secondary market, to include VA's Vendee Loan program.

12. Paralympics—To foster the use of sports as part of rehabilitation, Public Law 110–389 authorized VA to provide a grant to the US Paralympic program to promote development of adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans from the grassroots to elite, competitive levels. The Committee will review VA's Paralympics grant program with an emphasis on the results of grassroots adaptive sports programs.

13. Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs—The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) is an enforcement agency within the Department of Labor. In addition to other equal employment laws, OFCCP enforces the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 (VEVRAA). The law requires that employers with Federal contracts of $100,000 or more provide equal opportunity and affirmative action for certain veterans. The Federal government awards prime contractors worth approximately $200 billion per year. The Committee will examine OFCCP's recent investigatory and enforcement actions related to VEVRAA, staffing matters, and the general complaint process.

HEALTH CARE

1. Veterans Choice and Access to Fee Care—The Committee will examine the availability and means through which the Veterans Health Administration provides care to eligible veterans whose access to traditional medical services is limited by geography, disability, or other challenges. Specifically, the Committee is concerned about the implementation of two new national initiatives—the Patient Centered Community Care (PCCC) and Non-VA Care Coordination (NVCC) programs—both of which would make significant changes to VA's fee care program. Serious issues have been raised about the validity and accuracy of the business case and cost-benefit analysis VA used to develop PCCC and NVCC and whether their implementation will perpetuate the current broken fee care system. The Committee will also conduct oversight of the provision of dialysis services in regard to a May 2012 Government Accountability Office report that found substantial weaknesses in the execution of the planning and early implementation phases of the ongoing VA Dialysis Pilot Program.

2. Mental Health Care Quality, Access, and Staffing—The Committee will conduct rigorous oversight of the provision of mental health care to veteran patients. Serious questions have been raised about VA's ability to provide timely, effective, and accessible mental health care and benefits to veterans especially those struggling with Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS). An April 2012 VA Inspector General (IG) report exposed serious deficiencies with the accu-

racy and reliability of VA to determine whether or not VA's mental health care access goals are being met and are appropriate measures of quality care. Among the issues we will explore are: VA's efforts to establish usable data to assess patient demand, patient waiting times, appropriate staffing levels, and clinic capacity; VA's progress in hiring additional mental health staff; the usability and effectiveness of mental health provider performance and productivity measures; partnerships and collaborations with community providers to address service gaps; and, systematic issues impeding patient wellness.

3. Beneficiary Travel—The Committee will evaluate the administration of VA's beneficiary travel program to include overall program accountability, the management of funds, and the manner of payments to eligible veterans. We will also oversee the implementation of section 104 of Public Law 112–154, which directs VA to conduct a three-year pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of extending beneficiary travel for veterans obtaining care at Vet Centers.

4. Caring for Veterans with Amputations—The Committee will continue to closely monitor and assess the provision of care to veterans with amputations. VA faces documented challenges in meeting the needs of younger and more active veterans with amputations with the latest technology and providing a strong system-wide prosthetic limb program that is consistent and coordinated. In the 112th Congress, the Committee held several hearings that exposed troubling concerns among veterans with amputations and community-based clinicians about the impact new VA policies on the approval of advanced technologies and the veteran's choice to utilize a community-based provider. Among the issues we will assess is the implementation and impact of prosthetic procurement reforms. Serious concerns have been raised by veterans with amputations and other stakeholders that VA's planned prosthetic procurement reforms will take prosthetic purchasing authority away from prosthetic specialists and transfer it to contracting officers, which would lead to substantial delays in care and clinical judgments regarding veterans' needs being overridden by individuals with little to no experience in prosthetic care.

5. Guide and Service Dogs—The Committee will closely monitor the implementation of section 109 of Public Law 112–154, which prohibits VA from denying the use of service dogs in, or on, any VA facility or property or any facility or property that receives VA funding. Contrary to the intent of Congress, concerns have been raised that this provision could prevent veterans with owner-trained or otherwise "unaccredited" service dogs from accessing VA property. The Committee will also assess the implementation of regulations that provide veterans with visual, hearing, or mobility impairments with benefits to support the use of a service dog as part of the management of such impairments. In particular, we will closely monitor a recently suspended study to assess the benefits of providing service dogs to veterans with PTSD.

6. Sexual Assault Prevention and Safety Measures—The Committee will closely monitor the implementation of section 106 of Public Law 112–154, which directs VA to develop and implement a comprehensive policy on reporting, tracking, and prevention of

sexual assault and other safety incidents at VA medical facilities. In June 2011, the Government Accountability Office issued a report which found 284 allegations of sexual assault in VA facilities between 2007 and 2010 resulting from significant deficiencies in risk assessment, reporting, tracking and oversight by VA leadership. The Committee will ensure that corrective actions are in place to effectively and efficiently respond to any and all unsafe incidents and ensure the safety of VA patients and employees. (Continuation of efforts from the 112th Congress.)

7. Strategic and Policy Implications of the Affordable Care Act—The Committee will examine the impact of Public Law 111–148, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), on the VA healthcare system. VA healthcare has been deemed to meet "minimum essential coverage" requirements under the law. Nevertheless, the enactment of the ACA carries significant strategic and policy implications for VA, including potential impacts regarding VA enrollment and utilization, information technology and data collection requirements, and workforce recruitment and retention efforts.

8. Women Veterans—The Committee will evaluate VA's progress in increasing access and overcoming barriers associated with health care quality and satisfaction for women veterans, the fastest growing segment of the veteran population. Among the many issues the Committee will focus on are the implementation of provisions in Public Law 111–163 aimed to assist women veterans, including readjustment and child care pilot programs and the activities and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans.

9. Medical Recruitment, Retention and Staffing—VA faces a large nursing shortage in the next several years. The Committee will review efforts being made by the VA to recruit, hire and train medical staff. Of particular interest will be the recent contract to reintegrate and retain veterans at all levels in the VA.

10. Support for Families and Caregivers—The Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the caregiver assistance programs established in Public Law 111–163, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act. Among the issues are the provision of stipend payments, mental health care services, respite care, and training.

11. Management of Major Medical Facility Projects—The Committee will continue its aggressive oversight of VA leadership failures with regard to VA's capital asset planning, approval, and budgeting process and the execution of major medical facility construction projects. We will also examine the status of ongoing projects, to include Orlando, Florida; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Denver, Colorado; and assess issues with the management and oversight of facility design, construction, and activation which have led to significant cost increases and scheduling delays.

12. Recovering Servicemembers and Veterans—The Committee will continue to aggressively look at the VA and DOD systematic and persistent leadership, management, and oversight problems affecting the case management and care coordination of wounded warriors.

13. Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) Structure—The Committee will examine the current VISN structure and ways to realign the VISNs to better manage performance, promote innovation, and establish uniformity of health care services and practices throughout the system. The VISN system has remained in place for fifteen years, with the only structural change taking place in 2002 when VISN 13 and 14 were integrated and renamed VISN 23. With the rapid application of new information technology that has revolutionized the way we live, interact, and conduct business, the Committee will focus on opportunities to restructure the VISNs toward the goal of more patient-centered care.

14. Medical and Prosthetic Research Program—The Committee will examine the value of VA research with respect to injuries and illnesses related to military service and the acceleration of discoveries and applications, especially for neurotrauma, sensory loss, amputation, polytrauma, and prosthetic needs. Among the issues we will also focus on are: the adequacy of research space and equipment and the development of a clearinghouse designed to promote VA and DOD researchers awareness collaboration and joint publication of research.—add in infrastructure

15. Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT)—The Committee will provide aggressive oversight of the impact and effectiveness of a new initiative VA is implementing referred to as PACT which is intended to increase access, coordination, communication, and continuity of care by allowing patients to have a dedicated primary care team and a more active role in their health care.

16. Pain Management—The Committee will examine VHA's pain management strategy. Managing pain is an increasingly significant issue, especially for recently returning combat veterans presenting with a wide range of physical and mental health problems, including musculoskeletal ailments and post traumatic stress. The Committee will focus on: pain awareness, education, intervention; utilization of best practices for the continuum of acute and chronic pain; and the challenge of prescription drug diversion and abuse.

17. VA Partnerships With Faith-based and Community Organizations—The Committee will continue to examine the role of community providers and faith-based organizations in helping servicemembers transition to civilian life and the need to foster better communication, education, and collaboration between VA and these critical community resources. Specifically, the Committee will focus on VA's relationship with community organizations and actions necessary to establish meaningful and effective partnerships to better support veterans in their home communities. We will also closely monitor the implementation of Section 3 of the Executive Order on Improving Access to Mental Health Services for Veterans, Servicemembers, and Military Families, which directs VA and the Department of Health and Human Services to establish pilot projects to test the effectiveness of community partnerships in helping to meet the mental health needs of veterans.

18. Vet Centers—The Committee will examine the services provided to servicemembers, veterans, and their families through Vet Centers and evaluate the role of such centers within the larger VA health care system. The Committee will also address the imple-

mentation of Section 304 of Public Law 111–163, the Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, which requires VA to establish a program to provide mental health services to immediate family members of returning veterans particularly those who served in the National Guard and Reserve, and section 401, which made active-duty servicemembers eligible to receive readjustment counseling at VA Vet Centers.

19. Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Electronic Health Records and Interoperability—The Committee has and will continue to devote substantial attention to health information sharing between DOD and VA, understanding the need for this sharing to support the transition from active duty to veterans status. However, VA and DOD face significant challenges in achieving long-term data sharing capability. While the two Departments have developed a strategy at the higher levels, both Departments lack objective, quantifiable, and measurable goals to assess their success in achieving full electronic health record interoperability and VA and DOD lack mechanisms for identifying and implementing efficient and effective information technology solutions to jointly address both Departments' common health care system needs.

20. Homeless Veterans Programs—The Committee will continue to provide meaningful oversight of VA's plan to end homelessness among the veteran population by 2015 and assure that homeless veterans gain access to the supportive services and meaningful employment they need to reintegrate into stable community environments. In particular, the Committee will work to ensure that VA's efforts regarding homeless veterans are sustainable and focused on the elimination of the factors underlying homelessness, including the aggressive diagnosis and treatment of mental health issues and substance use disorder. The Committee will also assess the use, effectiveness, and any duplication of the specialized programs to assist homeless veterans and examine ways to strengthen VA's ability to prevent at-risk veterans from becoming homeless.

21. Camp Lejeune Veterans and Family Members—The Committee will monitor the implementation of section 102 of Public Law 112–154, which provides hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care through the VA to certain veterans and their eligible family members who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, from January 1, 1957 to December 31, 1987, during which time the well water was contaminated. These veterans are eligible to receive medical care for the following fifteen illnesses or conditions: esophageal cancer; lung cancer; breast cancer; bladder cancer; kidney cancer; leukemia; multiple myeloma; myleodysplasic syndromes; renal toxicity; hepatic steatosis; female infertility; miscarriage; scleroderma; neurobehavioral effects; and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, although the law acknowledges that there is insufficient medical evidence to conclude that any particular illnesses are attributable to military service during that period. The VA will be the final payer to other third-party health insurance plans for eligible family members.

22. Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)—The subcommittee will continue to investigate the role of post traumatic stress and/or brain injury with veteran suicides,

including overmedication (chronic pain management) and other treatment plans. In the 112th Congress, O&I identified more than 2000 studies and projects, in both DoD and VA, related to PTS and TBI. Scores of these programs were duplicative.

23. Gulf War Illness—Early in CY 2013, the Institute of Medicine will publish its latest studies on the relationship between Gulf War service (1990–1991), environmental and chemical exposure, and a host of illnesses that plague veterans from that war. Although service connection has been established for some health issues, VA is not properly utilizing the Gulf War Registry, nor is it connecting veteran reported illnesses to Gulf War service. This lack of attention to detail prevents veterans from receiving medical care for service related issues including sleep disturbances, heart problems, and memory failure.

24. Veterans Courts—Many states have given veterans with legal troubles the opportunity to have their cases heard and resolved through special courts which liaise with community resources and VA to address the root causes of veterans' legal problems, e.g., substance abuse, PTSD, etc. In return for seeking and sustaining treatment for these issues, veterans are given the ability to keep their record clean and resolve their underlying issues. The Committee will assess VA's role in cooperating with these courts and monitor effectiveness.

25. Telehealth and Telemedicine—The Committee will assess the VA's ongoing efforts as to provide greater access to telehealth and telemedicine as part of its overall outreach to rural veterans as well as looking into the effectiveness of these programs in providing greater access and quality health care.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

1. VA Budget Transparency—The Committee will continue to oversee the sufficiency and transparency of VA's budget and budgeting process. We will ensure that appropriated dollars are used for their intended purpose and not diverted to other uses without Congressional awareness and assent. This oversight will include every appropriation account and all programs under those accounts. The Committee also plans to explore VA's planning, programming, budgeting and execution efforts as well as fiscal management and control issues.

2. VA's Acquisition Process—VA continues to spend billions annually for the procurement pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical supplies, prosthetic devices, information technology, construction, and services. VA still faces major challenges implementing a more efficient, effective, and coordinated acquisition program. The Committee will review VA's procurement practices, and discuss possible legislative remedies. In VA construction, the Committee will address the prevalent practice of contractors increasing their profits by submitting change orders through proposed legislation that will stipulate that if the actual contract price (e.g. construction on major medical facility) exceeds x% of authorized amount, contractor must cover difference.

3. Competitive Sourcing and Alternative Management Systems—The VA is implementing the President's Management Agenda and Office of Management and Budget Directives through com-

petitive sourcing and alternative management systems. The Committee is interested in the factual basis for the conduct of this program and the organizational benefits yielded.

4. Energy Sustainability and Efficiencies—The Committee will continue to conduct oversight on VA's progress with sustainability and energy efficiencies at the various VA locations to include VA health care facilities and National Cemeteries. The examination will include a focused look at how the VA has spent funding authorized to enhance sustainability and efficiency programs and whether the funding is being well spent and the savings touted by VA are quantifiable.

5. Fund Programs—The Committee will utilize a forensic accountant to conduct a detailed review of VA's medical care collection fund (including demonstrations, consolidations and outsourcing initiatives), the Supply Fund, the ADVANCE Fund, the VA plus One Fund, the Franchise Fund and others as identified. Of concern is how VA moves money to and from these funds, how they are categorized (whether obligated or unobligated) and whether or not this money is properly revealed to Congress.

6. Consolidated Patient Accounting System (CPAC)—The Committee will continue to conduct oversight on VA's consolidation of VHA's business office functions into seven regional centers. The examination will focus on the transformation of VHA billing and collections activities, and to determine how closely VHA purports to be aligned with industry best practices.

7. Evaluating Management Efficiencies—The VA plans to achieve specified savings each fiscal year by implementing various procedures to achieve cost avoidance. The Committee will examine the relationship of projected savings with demonstrated savings and assess the impact on delivery of quality services.

8. Office of Resolution Management for EEO Complaints—Public Law 105–114, the Veterans Benefits Act of 1997, included a requirement that the Department of Veterans Affairs take actions to improve its equal employment opportunity program and created the Office of Resolution Management. The Committee will review the effectiveness of the Office of Resolution Management, but also notes the large increase in both EEO complaints and the financial burden for VA.

9. National Archives and Records Administration—The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) maintain the military personnel records of discharged members of the Armed Forces. The Committee will examine the security of veteran records maintained at NARA to ascertain the protection of personal identifying information of our nation's veterans, as well as the transmittal of these records to VA in order to assist veterans in the claims process, and to help reduce the claims backlog.

10. VA Information Technology Programs—The Committee will continue its oversight of VA's IT programs. We will pay specific attention to the progress of VA's integrated enterprise architecture plan and efforts to improve its internal and external cyber security, as well as review the effectiveness of the VA's Project Management Accountability System (PMAS) and the new T–4 information technology contracting process, which is a five-year Indefinite Delivery/

Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Multiple Award Task Order contract with a program ceiling of $12 billion.

11. Proprietary and Sensitive Information—Aside from storing personally identifiable information for millions of veterans, VA's IT architecture also stores proprietary information related to VA research on science, health, and IT. VA has made efforts at improving IT security pertaining to PII, but efforts aimed at storing proprietary information have not received the same amount of scrutiny. Additionally, the Committee has tracked VA's underperforming supply chain risk management efforts related to the electronic health record, and this lack of progress has raised concerns in other areas of IT storage. The Committee will continue its oversight work in this area.

12. VA's Fourth Mission, Emergency Management Capabilities—The events of September 11, 2001 as well as the Hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region in 2005 raised national awareness of the role of the Federal government in times of emergency or disaster. The Committee will continue its oversight of VA's role and responsibilities as part of the National Response Framework.

13. VA Senior Executive Service Bonuses—The Committee will continue its oversight of VA's bonus practices for its Senior Executive Service employees, as well as review performance measures including Office of Personnel Management (OPM) mandates.

14. Credentialing and Screening of VA Healthcare Employees—The Committee will examine VA's implementation of Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations that indicated serious flaws in screening the professional credentials of VA healthcare practitioners.

15. VA/DOD Benefits Delivery at Discharge Program—The Committee will evaluate DOD's utilization of a single examination that meets both military services' separation requirements and VA's disability compensation criteria. The Committee will also review VA's efforts to co-locate Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Health Administration personnel involved in compensation and pension claims processing to provide more efficient one-stop claims processing centers. Further, we will examine the effectiveness of the implementation of the integrated DoD/VA Disability Evaluation System (iDES).

16. Electronic Health Records—VA and DOD, through their joint Health Executive Council, have developed a plan to create an interoperable electronic medical record first by 2005, and more recently by 2017. The Committee will review the progress that has been made in interoperability and the timely bi-directional exchange of medical information.

17. Human Subjects Protection Program—The Committee will continue to review programs that involve human subjects, including any effort that must be approved by an Independent Review Board, to ensure veterans are properly protected as necessary.

18. Controlled Substances Security—The IG's Combined Assessment Program Reviews have repeatedly found material weaknesses in VA medical center security of controlled substances. Poor security or lack of security seriously increases the potential for waste, fraud, abuse, and drug diversion. The Committee will examine how VA is addressing this issue.

19. Laboratory and Clinical Select Agent Security—VA Level 3 Laboratories and all VA Medical Centers are host to various chemical, biological and radiological agents. The Subcommittee will review the security of these agents. This is an ongoing Committee interest.

20. Workers' Compensation Program—The IG previously reported on VA's poor case management of workers' compensation claims. VA is at risk for program abuse, fraud, and unnecessary costs because it has not fully implemented IG recommendations issued in 1999. The Committee will examine what should be done to improve the Workers Compensation Program.

21. Enhanced Land Leases and Divestment of Federal Property—The Committee will review the adequacy of internal controls related to leasing or selling of VA assets and assess the tangible benefit to taxpayers, as well as exploring how VA efforts fit into its overall capital asset strategic plan.

22. Historic Properties—The Committee will review the use and condition of historic properties owned and operated by VA, and whether the Department can sustain the costs and maintenance involved with these properties in the future.

23. Whistleblower—Whistleblowers continue to be a vital source of accurate and timely information. Protecting an employee's legal right to communicate with Congress is essential to oversight and this subcommittee looks to strengthen whistleblower protections. The Committee will continue to monitor VA's adherence to whistleblower protections.

24. Profitability Spectrum—The Committee will continue to review profits acquired by VA for licensing department rooftop space for cell towers (more than $3 million in FY12), for patents (at least $391,894 in FY12), and land leases. We will also review how the money is being accounted for and distributed.

25. Financial Management Systems—In 2004 VA scrapped its CoreFLS program after spending $249 million. VA's FLITE program, a replacement for the failed CoreFLS program, was stopped in 2010 after more than $90.8 million was spent. In February 2011 SAM was also cancelled after more than $20 million. VA is in dire need of an updated financial management system. The Committee will continue to oversee and investigate any efforts to modernize VA's financial management system.

26. VA Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA)—Frequently inconsistent, incomplete, and untimely responses to requests for information from the Committee, along with a lack of established procedures within OCLA, warrant further review so the Committee can get the information necessary to perform its oversight.

27. Conferences & Training—In 2011, VA spent over $100 million on conferences. Inspector General reports suggest widespread waste in conference spending. The Committee will continue to investigate VA's exorbitant conferences and training costs.

BENEFITS AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

1. Rating Schedule Hearing—The current rating schedule was created after WWII. VA has recently undertaken an effort to comprehensively revise all 15 body systems in the VASRD. In Sep-

tember 2012, GAO issued a report finding that VA was over 12 months behind schedule on this update and lacked a complete plan for the updates. Therefore, the Committee will continue its oversight to keep VA on track in reforming the rating schedule and determine whether a focused study or new legislation (as suggested by GAO) should be introduced.

2. Temporary/Total Ratings—A majority of the temporary total ratings handed down by VA Regional Offices have been found to be in error. Although VA initially attributed these errors to a computer glitch, VA OIG regional office audits continue to reveal a high error rate as to these claims. The Committee will oversee how best to address this issue in the interest of saving VA time and money.

3. National Cemeteries Hearing—The Committee will examine the immediate and long-term needs of the VA National Cemetery Administration (NCA) and the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to provide burial or commemoration to America's fallen heroes. Specifically, the Committee will follow up on the NCA audit, as well as the VA OIG's audit of the NCA audit, to determine if all burial errors have been corrected and if NCA has executed proper management controls to prevent such errors in the future.

4. VA's Transformation Plan—A Committee hearing was held last June on VA's Transformation Plan. At the hearing, VA did not present a cohesive plan for transforming the agency, but rather listed a conglomerate of loosely tied initiatives. The Committee has made numerous requests for a copy of the Transformation Plan with no response from VA. Continued oversight of this effort is essential.

5. Call Center and eBenefits Issues—The various Call Centers have been a constant area of consternation for veterans who complain about long wait times, no call backs and incorrect information about their claims status from the representatives. Although VA tries to re-direct many of these veterans to eBenefits (an electronic means for veterans to obtain information on their claims), recent briefings from VA reveal that eBenefits is not updated in a timely manner and is not providing veterans with the most up to date casetracking information. Continued oversight of this effort is necessary.

6. The Current Appeals Process—The Committee will continue to monitor the compensation and pension claims appeal process at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), the Appeals Management Center (AMC) and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). The Committee plans to focus on exploring avenues to simplify the current appeal process, increase accountability and reduce avoidable remands.

7. Blue Water Navy—Vietnam veterans who served in the waters offshore Vietnam are ineligible for Agent Orange compensation on a presumptive basis unless VA has registered the ships on which they served as eligible for the presumption of exposure to Agent Orange. Although organizations advocating for these "Blue Water Navy" veterans have been working with VA to add many ships to its registry, many advocates are still pushing for full rec-

ognition for this group. The Committee will continue to oversee this issue.

8. Filipino Veterans—Recently, the Obama administration indicated that it will undertake a review of denied Filipino veterans' claims. The Committee will examine this effort as it is unclear exactly what standard will be used to review denied claims.

9. VBA Staffing and Productivity—Since 2007, VA has consistently requested additional staffing to keep up with the claims backlog, requiring significantly more funding. Although VA has added approximately 3,000 new claims processors in the last five years, the backlog has continued to increase, rather than decrease. Accordingly, the Committee will examine the impact of additional staffing on productivity at VA's regional offices, as well as other alternatives to addressing the backlog besides additional staffing.

10. VA Insurance Programs—The potential for in-service medical conditions may make it difficult or even impossible for servicemembers to obtain private insurance; therefore VA administers a variety of life insurance programs for servicemembers and veterans. The Committee will continue to oversee the effectiveness of these programs, to include the benefits of automatic enrollment, the addition of new conditions covered by traumatic injury protection; and additional coverage options for family members.

11. VA Pension Program—In the 112th Congress, it was revealed that VA's pension program was being abused in some instances because veterans were hiding assets in order to qualify for the program. In addition, a whistleblower report showed evidence of problems processing payments, including duplicate payments for some veterans. Therefore, the Committee will continue to oversee all aspects of the pension program to ensure that pension claims are processed efficiently and that veterans are receiving the proper payment amount.

12. Claims Processing Consistency—Recent reports have revealed that timeliness and accuracy statistics for VA claims vary widely with regional offices in major metropolitan areas (such as Oakland, Los Angeles, and New York City) having far lower performance metrics than those in less populated areas (such as Lincoln, NE; Sioux Falls, SD; and Togus, ME). Although VA uses a brokering system to transfer claims from some lower performing regional offices to higher performing offices, rigorous oversight of this aspect of the claims process will ensure that similarly situated veterans are treated equally regardless of their physical location.

13. Coordination Between VBA and VHA—Although both VBA and VHA are within VA, veterans often complain that there is little to no communication or meaningful collaboration between the two departments, often causing complications. Oversight of the communication and collaboration process between VBA and VHA will ensure a more effective "big picture" method for treating disabled veterans.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 15, 2013.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight & Government Reform,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA AND CHAIRMAN MILLER: In accordance with the requirements of clause 2 of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following is a list of oversight hearings and oversight-related activities that the Committee on Ways and Means and its Subcommittees plan to conduct during the 113th Congress.

Matters Under the Committee's Federal Budget Jurisdiction

• **Economic and Budget Outlook.** Oversight hearings with various Administration officials to discuss current economic and budget conditions, including the long-term outlook, the state of the economy, prospects for recovery and long-term growth, our economic competitiveness, private sector job creation, and limits on the public debt.

Matters Under the Committee's Tax Jurisdiction

• **Tax Reform.** Hearings and other activities related to comprehensive tax reform.

• **Priorities of the Department of the Treasury.** Hearings with the Treasury Secretary and other Administration officials to receive information regarding the Administration's tax-related priorities for the 113th Congress. Specifically, discuss and consider legislative and administrative proposals contained in the President's fiscal year 2014 and 2015 budgets.

• **Appropriate Tax Relief for Individuals, Families, and Employers.** Hearings and other activities regarding appropriate tax relief measures for individual taxpayers, families, and employers of all sizes.

• **Tax Provisions Contained in the "Affordable Care Act" (ACA).** Hearings and other activities regarding various tax provisions contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111–148) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111–152), known collectively as the ACA. Continued oversight and other activities related to ACA tax provisions, in-

cluding especially those scheduled for implementation in 2013 or 2014, such as the individual mandate, the employer mandate, the Exchange subsidies, the medical device tax, and the 3.8 percent surtax on capital gains, dividends, and other investment income.

• **Internal Revenue Service Operations/Administration of Tax Laws.** Oversight of the major Internal Revenue Service programs, including enforcement, collection, taxpayer services, returns processing, and information systems. Consider analyses and reports provided to the Congress by the IRS National Taxpayer Advocate, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, and the GAO. Oversight of IRS funding and staffing levels needed to provide taxpayer assistance and enforce the tax law fairly, effectively and efficiently. Evaluate tax return filing seasons, including electronic filing, and improper payments levels and fraud prevention efforts. Discuss proposed funding and staffing levels for the IRS, and legislative proposals and administrative proposals contained in the President's fiscal year 2014 and 2015 budgets.

• **Tax-Exempt Organizations.** Oversight of Federal tax laws, regulations, and filing requirements that affect tax-exempt organizations, particularly charities and foundations. Evaluate overall IRS efforts to monitor tax-exempt organizations, identify areas of non-compliance, prevent abuse, and ensure timely disclosure to the public about tax-exempt organization activities and finances. Review IRS tax-exempt application process and agency oversight of new exempt organizations.

• **Tax Code and Tax Form Simplification.** Oversight of tax code and tax form complexity, particularly for individuals, with the goal of simplification. Review areas where taxpayers and professional return preparers have difficulty, including areas where they make the most errors, and consider solutions. Evaluate simplification of information returns to assist taxpayers in determining taxable income. Examine proposals to close the "tax gap" by simplifying compliance with our tax laws.

• **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).** Oversight of the refundable federal income tax credit designed to assist low to moderate income working individuals and families. Evaluate the participation and improper payment rates within the program, and IRS efforts to eliminate EITC abuse.

• **Tax Scams and Improper Payments.** Oversight of the latest tax scams and tax fraud activities with a goal of protecting taxpayers and preventing identity theft. Examine IRS initiatives and efforts to curb tax fraud and the abuse of tax credits, specifically improper payments in the administration of tax credits. Review IRS processes designed to identify and remedy identity theft.

• **Federal Excise Taxes.** Oversight review of Federal excise taxes, credits, and refunds, including the trust funds financed by these taxes.

• **Pensions and Retirement Security.** Oversight review of the financial condition, operations, and governance of the Pension Benefit Corporation ("PBGC"), including financial exposure of the PBGC.

Matters Under the Committee's Health Jurisdiction

• **Priorities of the Department of Health and Human Services.** Oversight hearing with the Health and Human Services Secretary to discuss priorities for the 113th Congress and concerns related to the delivery of health services and reimbursement under Medicare. Specifically, discuss and consider legislative and administrative proposals contained in the President's fiscal year 2014 and 2015 budgets.

• **Medicare Part A and Part B (Fee-for-Service Providers).** Oversight of the major Medicare programs to ensure efficient use of resources, quality of care, and access to providers for Medicare beneficiaries. Specific topics include: adequacy and appropriateness of provider reimbursements, including incentive payments; program benefits; cost sharing; workforce supply; the doctor-patient relationship; treatment of specific populations such as people with disabilities and low-income beneficiaries; quality improvement efforts; implementation of the ACA and related regulations; and waste, fraud, and abuse activities.

• **Medicare Advantage.** Oversight of Medicare health plans, including: enrollment; reimbursements; benefit packages; quality; beneficiary choice; and recent statutory and regulatory changes affecting Medicare health plans and their enrollees.

• **Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Plans).** Oversight of the Medicare prescription drug program, including: drug pricing; beneficiary premiums and cost-sharing; beneficiary choice; impacts of recently enacted legislation and regulations and their impact on the Part D program; and access to retiree prescription drug coverage.

• **Medicare Entitlement.** Oversight of program changes on the Medicare Trust Funds; premium and copay levels; and benefit design.

• **CMS Administration.** Oversight of CMS, including issuance of regulations and their impact on Medicare beneficiaries and providers; the adequacy and use of CMS' budget and staff; contracting activities; communications with beneficiaries; adherence to the Administrative Procedures Act; and general agency accountability.

• **Private Health Insurance Coverage.** Oversight and review of private health coverage, including: cost, access, subsidies to purchase insurance, benefit design, coverage options, pooling mechanisms, and employer-sponsored benefits; COBRA; HCTC; health savings accounts and flexible spending arrangements; options to reduce the cost of health coverage, expand coverage, and address the rate of increase in health care costs; the impact of the ACA and related regulations on those with private insurance, employers, the economy, and state budgets; and adherence to the Administrative Procedures Act.

Matters Under the Committee's Human Resources Jurisdiction

• **Welfare Reform.** Review and consider proposals to reauthorize Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and related welfare reform programs. Review the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' July 2012 "Information Memorandum" suggesting that States could seek "waivers" of work requirements for

welfare recipients. Investigate TANF Maintenance of Effort (MOE) spending requirements and their interaction with TANF work requirements. Examine barriers to increasing self-sufficiency among low-income families with children, and how changes may better address the needs of adult beneficiaries who face barriers to employment. Review the role that TANF and related programs such as child care and child support enforcement play in facilitating work and economic opportunity for low-income families. Oversee implementation of recent legislation that strengthened program integrity regarding accessing TANF benefits.

• **Unemployment Compensation.** Provide oversight of the nation's unemployment compensation benefits and employment security systems. Review implementation of program reforms contained in Public Law 112–96, *The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012,* especially those designed to accelerate returns to work, prevent inappropriate benefit payments, and improve overpayment recovery.

• **Child Welfare.** Provide oversight of the nation's child welfare programs, including foster care, adoption assistance, and child and family service programs under Titles IV–B and IV–E of the Social Security Act. Review State efforts to promote adoption, strengthen family connections, and successfully address the health and educational needs of foster children. Consider proposals for reauthorizing several child welfare programs whose authorizations expire at the end of FY 2013, including adoption incentives and family connection grants.

• **Low-Income Disabled and Aged Individuals.** Provide oversight of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program to examine trends in the program, agency program integrity efforts, and options to improve recipient outcomes and reduce administrative complexities in order to target program resources to those most in need.

• **Review and, Where Appropriate, Identify Opportunities to Eliminate Duplicate Programs.** Review interactions among programs serving low-income populations so they can more efficiently and effectively operate, including through the enhanced use of technology. Additional proposals and ideas, such as those identified by the GAO's annual report on duplication, overlap, and fragmentation, should also be examined to reduce program duplication and improve the overall effectiveness of efforts to serve low-income populations.

Matters Under the Committee's Social Security Jurisdiction

• **Securing the Future of Social Security.** Examine the role of Social Security benefits in ensuring retirement security for today's and future retirees, financing challenges facing Social Security, the cost to taxpayers and beneficiaries of delay in addressing those challenges, and options to strengthen Social Security, including how the program is meeting the needs of today's and tomorrow's beneficiaries.

• **Strengthening the Disability Insurance (DI) program.** Examine the effectiveness of DI benefits in meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities today and the process for both deter-

mining eligibility for benefits and appealing denied applications, along with options to strengthen the program.

• **Stewardship of Social Security Programs.** Provide oversight of the management, performance, and long-range strategic planning related to Social Security programs, including the challenges facing the new Commissioner, the impact of tight resources on the SSA's ability to conduct program integrity reviews, and planning for the future representative payee needs of aging beneficiaries.

• **Protecting the Privacy of Social Security Numbers (SSN).** Examine the integrity and protection of SSNs by the Social Security Administration (SSA), including the SSA's death records and SSN verification systems, and the use of SSNs as identifiers and in identity theft and other fraud, along with options for change.

• **SSA's Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure.** Assess the management, performance, and strategic planning for future programs and systems development related to the SSA's IT infrastructure.

• **Deployment of Resources.** Oversight of the SSA's deployment of tight resources to serve the public and taxpayers, including evolving service delivery approaches, policy administration and program implementation impacts, and the SSA's role in supporting other Federal programs through interagency and data sharing agreements.

Matters Under the Committee's Trade Jurisdiction

• **Trade Promotion Authority (TPA).** Consideration of authority for the President to negotiate and conclude trade agreements in consultation with Congress, and to provide a clear framework for Congressional consideration and implementation.

• **Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB).** Continue work begun in the 112th Congress concerning noncontroversial bills to eliminate or reduce duties on products not made in the United States, in accordance with bipartisan transparency guidelines.

• **China.** Oversight of systemic problems in U.S.-China trade relations, including issues related to China's consistent lack of protection and enforcement of U.S. intellectual property rights, indigenous innovation requirements, use of industrial subsides, export restraints on key products such as rare earth minerals, and currency undervaluation.

• **Customs Authorization.** Continue work begun in the 112th Congress to consider legislation to authorize U.S. Customs and Border Protection, particularly to streamline and facilitate legitimate and compliant trade at the border, automate CBP processes, and improve enforcement.

• **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Negotiations**. Continued consultation with the Administration to evaluate the status of the negotiations and specify Member views on U.S. negotiating positions, with the goal of concluding the negotiations in 2013.

• **Other Bilateral and Regional Negotiations.** Evaluate prospect for additional trade negotiations, including the International Services Agreement and a U.S./EU free trade agreement, as well as bilateral investment treaty negotiations.

• **Preference Programs.** Oversight of major U.S. trade preference programs, including the Generalized System of Preferences (expiring July 2013), the Andean Trade Preferences Act (expiring July 2013), and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (expiring 2015).

• **World Trade Organization (WTO).** Oversight of U.S. goals, dispute settlement, the prospect for a trade facilitation agreement and expansion of the information technology agreement, and WTO accessions.

• **Enforcement.** Oversight of enforcement of U.S. rights and rights under trade agreements, including the WTO Agreements and bilateral and regional free trade agreements, to hold U.S. trading partners accountable. Evaluation of proposals to strengthen border enforcement related to U.S. intellectual property rights, import safety, and illegal transshipment. Oversight of administration of U.S. trade remedy laws, including border enforcement. Oversight of whether the United States is in compliance with its obligations, particularly where the United States is facing retaliation.

• **Role of Trade in U.S. Job Creation.** Oversight of the role of trade in creating U.S. jobs and how to create new market access for U.S. manufactured goods, agriculture, and services.

• **Trade Sanctions.** Oversight concerning import sanctions with, among others, Iran, Burma, North Korea, Syria, and Cuba.

• **Implemented Trade Agreements.** Oversight of implemented agreements with Colombia; Panama; Korea; Peru; Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras (CAFTA–DR); Oman; Bahrain; Singapore; Chile; Australia; Morocco; Jordan; Canada and Mexico (NAFTA); and Israel.

• **Trade Adjustment Assistance.** Oversight concerning the Trade Adjustment Assistance programs for workers, firms, communities, and farmers.

• **Priorities of the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).** Oversight over USTR to evaluate priorities for the 113th Congress and concerns related to the international trade agenda.

• **Priorities of the United States International Trade Commission.** Oversight over the Commission concerning overall priorities and operations.

This list is not intended to be exclusive. The Committee anticipates that additional oversight hearings and activities will be scheduled as issues arise and as time permits. Also, the Committee's oversight priorities and particular concerns may change as the 113th Congress progresses over the coming two years.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,
Chairman.

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