AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

REVIEW OF THE USE OF COMMITTEE FUNDS IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 111TH CONGRESS

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

HELD IN WASHINGTON, DC, JANUARY 27, 2010

Printed for the use of the Committee on House Administration

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

55–482 WASHINGTON : 2010

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

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

ROBERT A. BRADY, Pennsylvania, *Chairman*

ZOE LOFGREN, California
Vice-Chairwoman
MICHAEL E. CAPUANO, Massachusetts
CHARLES A. GONZALEZ, Texas
SUSAN A. DAVIS, California
ARTUR DAVIS, Alabama

DANIEL E. LUNGREN, California
Ranking Minority Member
KEVIN McCARTHY, California
GREGG HARPER, Mississippi

JAMIE FLEET, *Staff Director*
VICTOR ARNOLD-BIK, *Minority Staff Director*

REVIEW OF THE USE OF COMMITTEE FUNDS IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 111TH CONGRESS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2010

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

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:05 a.m., in room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Robert A. Brady [chairman of the committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Brady, Lofgren, Gonzalez, Davis of California, Lungren, and Harper.

Staff Present: Jamie Fleet, Staff Director; Matt Pinkus, Professional Staff/Parliamentarian; Kyle Anderson, Press Director; Joe Wallace, Legislative Clerk; Greg Abbott, Professional Staff; Darrell O'Connor, Professional Staff; Shervan Sebastian, Staff Assistant; Victor Arnold-Bik, Minority Staff Director; Katie Ryan, Minority Professional Staff; Mary Sue Englund, Minority Professional Staff; and George Hadijski, Minority Professional Staff.

The CHAIRMAN. The hearing of the House Administration Committee will come to order. I thank everybody for being here.

As you all know, we had our hearings in the beginning of the year for our committee funding. For the sake of brevity, I am not going to read my opening statement. That doesn't mean my Ranking Member can't. But we have asked our committees to come back and give us sort of a mid-term report on how they are making out, because we know we cut a lot of you and we know you are doing an excellent job with the limited amount of money that you received. We think you are doing an excellent job, and we would like to get a report back on how you are doing, and also if and when and how we may have a chance to be helpful. If there is some critical need you may have, we are ready to try to see how we can possibly assist you.

I know there has been some—I don't know exactly how many, I think I do, but I don't have it right in front of me—there are some committees that were able to be creative with some of your staff members that weren't being paid by you to maybe be moved over to some other agencies and we have been able to do that and been able to save some money for you.

With that, I would just like to thank you again for being here and recognize the Ranking Member, Mr. Lungren, for any comments he would like to make.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the bipartisan manner in which you have approached these hearings. Last year when we made the suggestion that we have a mid-session or mid-Congress report, you were positively disposed to do that. I think it is in our mutual interest to ensure not only the prudent use of taxpayer funds but also to ensure that what we have believed to be the case—that is, that there is an appropriate expenditure of funds between the two parties, that we have the two-thirds/one-third—that both sides are satisfied that the level of cooperation is where it ought to be.

Also last year, we both pledged to pursue a Policy of posting all committee monthly reports on line so they could be accessible to the public under the rubric of transparency. Today those reports, which document all the committees' expenditures and activities are available at our House Administration Web site.

We have even tougher budgetary problems today than we did when we were meeting with these committee representatives a year ago, but I am interested in finding out how they are proceeding with the budgets that they have. And as the President has signaled in his proposal to freeze Federal spending, we at least ought to take a look at where we are in terms of spending here in the House.

I am not one that believes that we ought to strip members or their staffs or the committees of the funds needed to do the job, because if we are going to do oversight on the executive branch as they look at spending priorities, we need to be able to have the staff to do that. And we do have some committees that have assumed additional responsibilities, and I think it would be interesting for us to find out how those additional responsibilities compare with the budgets that they have.

With that, I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the Ranking Member.

[The information follows:]

Opening Statement [After Brady's Remarks]

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would first like to thank the Chairman for agreeing to hold this important hearing on committee funding. He and I have worked together to improve accountability and transparency throughout the committee funding process, and I have no doubt this hearing will further our mutual interest in ensuring the prudent use of taxpayer funds in the House. I also want to extend my appreciation to the Chairs and Ranking Members that will come before us today.

During last year's hearing, I was encouraged to hear Committee Chairs commit to allocating a minimum of one-third of their committee resources to the respective Ranking Members. Begun in the 104th Congress, this practice is vital to guaranteeing that vigorous and healthy discourse remains inherent in our policy making processes, irrespective of the partisan composition of the House. I am pleased Chairman

Brady continues to affirm this principle and that the Chairs and Ranking Members remain committed to its implementation.

During this past year, the Chairman and I have also worked cooperatively to increase transparency in the funding process. For example, last year we both pledged to pursue a policy of posting all committee monthly reports online where they would be accessible to the public. Today, those reports, which document all committees' expenditures and activities, are available on the House Administration website.

I recognize that Committee needs often outweigh available resources, especially in light of our current economic and fiscal circumstances. As the President has signaled in his proposal to freeze federal spending, now, more than ever, we *must* be careful stewards of taxpayer dollars. Today, I look forward to hearing from my colleagues on how they effectively manage, and will continue to administer, their committee responsibilities while seeking ways to reduce costs.

Again, I want to thank Chairman Brady for today's hearing and thank the Chairs and Ranking Members. I look forward to hearing their testimonies. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. I am pleased to see the Honorable Zoe Lofgren doing double duty here, sitting on a panel with us, sitting on our committee here, and now also as the chairperson of the Ethics Committee, and also the Ranking Member, Mr. Bonner. Thank you for being here.

We will start off with you, Ms. Lofgren.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. ZOE LOFGREN, CHAIRWOMAN, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

Ms. LOFGREN. Thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and thanks to the committee and Mr. Harper in particular, who is also a member of the Ethics Committee and will know the truth of what we say personally.

I am going to try and set a standard for the rest of the day by asking unanimous consent that my written remarks be made part of the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. LOFGREN. I will hit a couple of the high points in terms of expediency and time.

We don't have a two-thirds/one-third rule on the Ethics Committee. We are completely bipartisan. It is the only committee of the House that is equally split, five Democrats, five Republicans. And we approach our obligation seriously, but without a hint of partisanship. And I can say, without dealing with any of the issues that are before us that need to be confidential, we have yet to have a vote that is less than unanimous in the Ethics Committee. And I am so pleased that Mr. Bonner, the Republican Ranking Member, is here to issue his statement.

But we have transformed the Standards Committee this year when, you will recall, we had a budget of $2.7 million. We will return $.3 million of those funds, we did last year, because of vacancies. However, when we began our task, Mr. Bonner and I had—we had 15 staff but we had nine vacancies. We have now hired 11 new staff, including a permanent staff director, a chief counsel, a deputy chief counsel, seven investigative attorneys and, as a result, the committee is staffed for the first time.

The staff is working very hard. If you go over there at midnight you will find them working, because we have had an incredible workload. We have issued more than 475 formal advisory opinions. We have fielded 9,700 telephone calls for advice, with 3,900 e-mails. We have provided training to 10,500 House Members and staff, and we have reviewed 2,700 financial disclosures.

We have commenced or continued our investigative fact-finding regarding the conduct of 36 House Members, 7 House employees, and one general matter. The committee has issued 17 subpoenas from the full committee and resolved 25 investigative matters without impaneling an investigative subcommittee. And we have impaneled three investigative subcommittees while continuing another.

I would note this is a record for the committee as far as we can tell. There have never been as many investigations going on as there have been today. I should note that that doesn't mean that there is more wrongdoing. It means that the committee has been very active, and even a hint that comes to us, we make sure that

we can assure the public and our body that things are going well, that we take all of these things seriously.

The four active investigative subcommittees have authorized the issuance of 199 subpoenas, interviewed 91 witnesses, reviewed nearly 40,000 pages of documents, and held approximately 80 investigative subcommittee meetings. Every one of those actions requires substantial staff effort.

Just recently we have received in excess of 200,000 pages of documents relating to a matter that we are looking into, and, of course, the staff needs to read and review every page of the 200,000 documents that we have received.

As we noted when we were here at the beginning, we might need to come back for some additional assistance. The committee was very welcoming for that concept. We knew that we were starting from a low spot, and I think that the committee and the Congress will be pleased by the hard work that we have put in.

I don't want to toot our own horn, but really this is the most collaborative, bipartisan relationship I think you will find in the Congress. I just can't say enough good about Mr. Bonner, who has been a tremendous part of the renewal of this committee.

I would turn now to Jo for his statement. Jo.

[The statement of Ms. Lofgren follows:]

Testimony

Rep. Zoe Lofgren, Chair

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

Before the

Committee on House Administration

January 27, 2010

Good morning, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee on House Administration today on behalf of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. We appreciate this opportunity to return and provide you with a status report of how the Committee on Standards has expended its budget during the past year, as well as its activities in general.

As you know, the Committee is tasked with ensuring that Members, officers and employees of the House adhere to and uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct in the performance of the duties. The Committee has sole jurisdiction over the interpretation of the Code of Official Conduct, which governs the acts of House Members, officers, and employees. The Committee is the only standing House committee with equal numbers of Democratic and Republican members. The Committee's staff is required by rule to be professional and nonpartisan. We are committed to an active, fair and nonpartisan ethics process.

The Committee's core responsibilities include providing training, advice, and education to House Members, officers, and employees; reviewing and approving requests to accept privately-sponsored travel related to official duties; reviewing and certifying all financial disclosure reports Members, candidates and senior staff are required to file; and investigating and adjudicating allegations of impropriety and violations of House ethics rules.

From a budget perspective, the Committee's budget for the 111th Congress, 1st Session, was $2.7 million. Of that amount, as of December 31, 2009, the Committee had spent $2.2 million, with approximately another $0.2 million obligated. The Committee anticipates returning approximately $0.3 million in unspent funds. These funds were not spent because for part of the year, the Committee was not fully staffed.

When we appeared before this committee last year, at the outset of the 111th Congress, the Committee on Standards employed only 15 staff, and had 9 vacancies. It lacked a permanent staff director. Of its staff, only one attorney was fully dedicated to the Committee's investigative work. During 2009, the Committee's Director of Advice and Education was appointed by the President to serve as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama.

However, in the last year, the Committee hired 11 new staff, including a permanent staff director and chief counsel, a deputy chief counsel and seven investigative attorneys. As a result, the Committee is fully staffed for the first time – and the staff has been hard at work.

Within the scope of its training, advice and education, travel, and financial disclosure responsibilities, in 2009 the Committee:

- Issued more than 475 formal advisory opinions regarding ethics rules;
- Released seven advisory memoranda on various ethics topics to the House;
- Fielded more than 9,700 informal telephone calls and 3,900 emails requesting guidance on ethics issues;
- Provided training to more than 10,500 House Members, officers, and employees, and reviewed their certifications for satisfying the House's mandatory training requirements; and
- Reviewed more than 2,700 financial disclosure statements filed by House Members, senior staff, and House candidates.

Within the scope of its investigative responsibilities, there are currently 48 investigative matters before the Committee. The Committee's workload, just within its investigative unit, is substantial. In 2009, the Committee:

- commenced or continued investigative fact-gathering regarding the conduct of 36 House Members, seven House employees, and one general matter;
- issued 17 full Committee subpoenas;
- resolved 25 investigative matters without empaneling an investigative subcommittee or taking other formal action;
- empaneled three investigative subcommittees; and

- carried over and expanded the jurisdiction of a fourth investigative subcommittee.

Collectively, in 2009, the four currently active investigative subcommittees formed by the Committee:

- authorized the issuance of 199 subpoenas;
- interviewed 91 witnesses;
- reviewed 31,900 pages of documents; and
- held approximately 80 investigative subcommittee meetings.

The Committee will build on this record in 2010. To assist the Committee in continuing to fulfill its essential responsibilities and to promote an effective, active, nonpartisan ethics process, the Committee respectfully requests additional funding for 2010 in the amount of $600,000.

As I noted a moment ago, the Committee is now fully staffed for the first time. In addition, we have sought and received authorization to expand from the Committee's current allotment for 24 full-time employees to 29 employees. The Committee intends to fill those positions by hiring a new Director of Advice and Education, three investigative counsels, and an additional counsel for its financial disclosure unit. Funding these positions will require an additional $550,000.

The Committee has a substantial investigative workload. Currently, there are 48 investigative matters before the Committee. Four investigative subcommittees continue their work. In other matters the Committee is investigating, but thus far has not opted to empanel investigative subcommittees, the Committee's staff faces the task of scrutinizing in excess of 200,000 pages of documents, with more expected to arrive, to perform its duties. Hiring additional investigative counsels is essential to helping the Committee address its investigative responsibilities.

In addition, to allow the Committee to begin designing appropriate technological solutions to improve its travel, training and financial disclosure systems and processes, we are requesting an additional $50,000 for the purpose of entering into contracts to commence the design of software for these purposes.

For these reasons, the Ranking Republican Member and I believe that our request for additional funds for the on Standards of Official Conduct is both necessary and appropriate. We thank you and the members of the Committee on House Administration for your consideration, and we look forward to answering any questions you may have.

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct
Fund Balance Statement as of 12/31/2009

All BOC codes

Resolution: 279 Report Done: 1/12/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Less Expenses Total Authorization $2,735,247.00

Year Month	
2009 January	$133,847.97
2009 February	$145,514.71
2009 March	$166,502.65
2009 April	$166,458.23
2009 May	$159,343.73
2009 June	$163,857.19
2009 July	$169,680.38
2009 August	$180,341.03
2009 September	$219,977.45
2009 October	$229,272.81
2009 November	$248,570.87
2009 December	$236,976.28
Total Committee Expenses to Date	$2,220,343.30
Unexpended Authorization	$514,903.70

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JO BONNER, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Lungren, and other members of the committee, thank you very much for allowing me to be before you today. I too would ask that my written statement, without objection, be entered into the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Chairman, when Chairwoman Lofgren and I appeared before your committee last year, the fact is that neither she nor I had a long history of working together. We had never served on a committee together. In fact, we met for the first time as we were going out on that very cold January day for the inauguration of President Obama. Yet we both had been assigned by our leadership, Speaker Pelosi and Leader Boehner, to take over a committee that, unfortunately, did not always have a reputation for working together, even though as the chairwoman noted we are the only committee that is divided equally between five Democrats and five Republicans. There had been a lot of strife, needless to say, over the years. That is not saying anything about any previous chair or ranking members, it is just a fact that we inherited.

The Chair also mentioned, and it is true, that we came in where the staff itself was understaffed. There were several vacancies. And yet the work of the committee continued to mount, and backlogs were becoming more and more noticeable and more and more unacceptable.

So I welcome this opportunity as a mid-Congress review to not only tell you, as the Chairwoman has with the statistical numbers, but I think the institution can be pleased with the progress we have made and, more importantly, I hope at the end of the day, the American people can have a renewed sense of confidence that the committee that is charged with the responsibility of education and advice, as well as looking into serious allegations of wrongdoing and misconduct, is taking our job seriously.

Really, it is with that thought, Mr. Chairman, that we come before you today to thank you for the support that you have given us previously and to let you know that we have not taken that support and that endorsement of our work lightly.

Certainly the collaboration and the bipartisanship that the Chairwoman and I have tried to build upon has been added to by the talents of four other colleagues on the Democratic side and four other colleagues on the Republican side who have worked in good faith every time we have asked them to take on additional responsibilities. So that, at the end of the day, we can hopefully give the American people more confidence that we do take ethics seriously and it is one of our highest priorities.

So, really, Mr. Chairman, the chairwoman has already alluded to the fact that we have filled a lot of vacancies that we inherited when we came into our respective jobs. We have worked to try to cut back on some of the long delays of responding to Members and responding to staff.

People sometimes forget that this is a small community of some 10,000-plus people who work on Capitol Hill. And each one of them should have the opportunity, whether it is a new staffer that is just joining for the first time or a senior member who has been here for

40 years, should have confidence that when they come to us with a question, with a matter that needs our review and perhaps our advice, that they can get an answer in a reasonable amount of time and one that they can go to the bank on.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield for any questions that you or the other members might have.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentleman.

[The statement of Mr. Bonner follows:]

Statement of
Ranking Member Jo Bonner
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

Before the
Committee on House Administration
January 27, 2010

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, and other distinguished members of the committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to be here to speak about the Ethics Committee's budget and its status in accomplishing our priorities during the 111th Congress.

I am honored to serve as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct with Chairwoman Lofgren, and eight of our House colleagues. We share a commitment to preserve the highest ethical standards of the House of Representatives, and to increase American citizens' confidence in their elected representatives.

As you know, the most important function of this committee is to help educate and provide professional advice to Members and House staff about many complex ethical issues and to ensure that they meet their ethical responsibilities. This past year, the Committee focused on improving both the timeliness and the quality of the guidance, and I am pleased that significant progress has been made in this regard.

Last year, more than 10,500 House Members and their staff, in Washington, DC and in district offices throughout the country certified that they completed ethics training. The ethics committee also issued 475 confidential, formal written advisory opinions and responded to thousands of telephone calls and emails from Members and staff on a variety of ethics questions. The Committee has also reviewed over 2,700 financial disclosure reports and over 1,600 requests for privately-sponsored travel to assist Member and staff compliance with House rules. While we have improved the advice and education and financial disclosure review functions, more progress must be made to improve the timeliness of the responses to Members and staff.

In addition, the Committee is responsible for fairly and consistently addressing potential violations of House rules. In 2009, we also took steps to improve transparency, including more frequent public reports on the Committee's activities. The Committee reviewed and took action on over three dozen matters involving Member conduct. Many of these involve serious allegations, and the Committee has hired several senior level attorneys with investigative experience to ensure each matter will be handled fairly and professionally.

The Committee became fully staffed in the latter part of 2009, but continues to tackle an increased workload. There are other goals and challenges facing the Committee as we move forward in 2010, including improving technology for a variety of the Committee's functions. I look forward to continue working with Chairwoman Lofgren to ensure we efficiently allocate the resources we are given to achieve our goals, and at the same time, that we respect and protect the institution that the American people look to and know as the United States Congress.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I also would like to add in confidentiality, which is most important.

Now, I do appreciate the fact, and I have heard the testimony, that there are a lot of advisory requests that come in and you answer them. It is good for everybody to feel how you all are working together, and I think it also gives a lot of the Members, and I am sure some staff members, mostly Members, it gives them a good feeling to know that we can ask a question and it will stop there and won't be—we won't hear about it again. And in the advisory that you give us—which we do need from time to time—that you are more knowledgeable than we are in giving us that advisory; hopefully we take it and do the right and proper thing.

So I do appreciate, and it is noted the comaraderie-ship is there with the Republicans and Democrats, and it gives a lot of confidence to the Members. I thank you, and I ask Mr. Lungren if he has any questions.

Mr. LUNGREN. I echo the Chairman's comments, in that Members rely on an effective and vigorous Ethics Committee to be able to respond to the questions in a timely fashion. That is why I remember when you came here last year, you talked about an increase in your budget, most of which I think we were able to approve. Then, looking at the December monthly report, it appears—and, again, I am going to say by your report that your committee had over a half a million dollar-surplus at the end of 2009. But I understand you might be making a request for some additional funds for this next year.

It would be helpful if you could elaborate on the need for the increased spending, because otherwise people will say, Wait a second, they had a surplus at the end of the year and now they want an increase. Do they expect more work as we go into an election year, or do you have to build on what you did last year? If you could tell us that.

Ms. LOFGREN. Certainly. The $500,000 figure is a little bit misleading, because some of it was obligated and not yet actually spent. So it is really about $200,000 that went unspent because we had vacancies we were trying to fill. But there were vacancies throughout the year.

I will just mention that in some cases the request for advice when we arrived, there was a 2-year delay in some cases from Members getting advice from the committee. As the Chair has mentioned, and the Ranking Member, that is a very important function of the committee, because Members don't want to violate the rules. A few outliers maybe, but everybody wants to follow the rules. But they can be complicated. So people call in because they want advice. They don't want to misstep. If it is a 2-year delay on getting the answer, obviously that is unacceptable.

Mr. LUNGREN. You might be retired by then, sometimes involuntarily.

The CHAIRMAN. Sometimes because of a lack of an answer.

Ms. LOFGREN. That could also be, Mr. CHAIRMAN. So we have staffed up. I will tell you, the investigative load is very substantial. As I mentioned, we have never had four investigative subcommittees at any one time. Under rule 18(a), the Chair and Ranking Member are authorized to have investigations preliminary to any

official investigative subcommittee action. And Mr. Bonner and I meet frequently. I think we talk almost every day on the matters that are necessary to review. In fact, a number of subpoenas were issued pursuant to 18(a) authority. There is substantial staff time. So we need additional investigative attorneys.

Do we have the actual staffing plan that we have submitted?

Mr. LUNGREN. While you have that intermission, also last year you talked about the need to upgrade the technology base in the committee. Has that been done or is that ongoing, and would we expect additional expenditures in that regard?

Ms. LOFGREN. We have made some progress, although we want to make more. Over the last year, the committee has made the ethics process more accessible and convenient and user friendly, using technology to allow, for example, financial disclosures to be made not just here in the Capitol but available outside the House network. We have worked to improve the registration and delivery of online training. I think many members of your staff probably have participated in the online training, and we are going to have new content available, too.

We are hoping to incorporate better technology in the advisory opinion and travel processes. And I think today we are going to make an official announcement on a travel working group that Jo and I have appointed, because the travel regulations, they are important, but they are convoluted and they are opaque, and they are so time-consuming.

For example, whole trees are falling before these processes. I mean, each person who goes on a trip, even if it is the exact same trip, the exact same sponsor, you have separate in-paper processes. It is an absurd way to do it. It does not actually allow for transparency to the public. So we are hoping to streamline that, to be able to make that more accessible to public view, and also user friendly.

We have $50,000 allocated for technology, and I think the answer to much of our advice work really is to use technology. But we are just beginning on what we want to do.

I have been handed by staff—who we all rely on—if we are able to get additional assistance, we have been authorized by the leadership to go from 24 to 29 employees, and we would have those five additional positions, a new director of advice and education, three investigative counsel, and an additional counsel for our financial disclosure unit, and those positions would take the bulk of these funds.

Jo, do you have anything to add?

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Lungren, in response to your question and to add to what the chairwoman has said, neither she nor I would have preferred to come to the committee asking for an additional increase in funding. We know that this is a tight time not only for Congress, it is really a tight time for the American people. Families and businesses are having to make tough decisions, and we have tried with every ounce of sincerity to squeeze as much as we could.

But let me give you an example of where, beyond our control, now we have a new outside Committee on Ethics that Congress authorized and that is fully established and operational. In 2009 the OCE referred 20 matters to the committee to take up, 12 of which

required further review by our committee. So in addition to the work that the Chair and I are authorized to commence and that the committee is authorized to commence, we now have another group that brings—and, as she indicated in her testimony, in one instance they brought over 200,000 pages of documents that are dealing with the lives and reputations of Members of Congress or others who work on the Hill. That is a volume that is staggering. Plus, they also impose upon us a time deadline that we have to respond to or take further action.

So, in order to be fair to the Members whose names come before us, but really more importantly, in order to reassure the American people that we are doing everything we can to look at any allegation as seriously as possible and conclude with it, it is going to require some additional people.

I will echo what the chairwoman said earlier, though. We have spent the better part of the year fully staffing the committee. Quite frankly, I think the new talent we have brought only has been a tremendous complement to the dedicated workforce we already had. One individual in particular who just left the committee, creating a vacancy, is now the U.S. Attorney in my district in Alabama.

So the people that have worked with us continue to do great things for service of the country. But that said, the need is obvious because of the increased workload that we have had.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just simply want to say how much I appreciate the way that you work together on this committee. I would classify it more as nonpartisan than even bipartisan. I just want to say thank you.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Harper, I want to thank you, as the chairwoman did, for your service on the committee. That is one that no one volunteers for, but we appreciate the time you invest in it as well.

If I may, Mr. Chairman, I want to echo what Chairwoman Lofgren was kind in saying: that she and I have built a strong relationship, a strong working relationship. We have really built a strong personal friendship. This is something that, as I indicated earlier, when she and I first came to these responsibilities, we did not have a preexisting friendship or relationship of working together.

I don't know that this means much to the American people, and it may not even mean much to the people here who serve on this committee, but there has not been one time in the past year where Zoe and I have not been in agreement on how we should proceed.

Traditionally, that is not always the case on this committee, even though it is nonpartisan. More importantly, that speaks also for the relationship that Mr. Harper has with Mr. Butterfield and that the other Democrats and Republicans have. This is truly a model of the way a committee should work, and I am just honored to be part of it.

Ms. LOFGREN. If I could just add, Mr. Bonner is a conservative Republican from Alabama. I am not. It has nothing to do with the job before us. The job before us, and we all feel this way, is to fairly

apply the rules and uphold the standards for the country. I think every member of that committee—no one asked to be on committee, I didn't ask to chair, and Jo did not ask to be ranking.

But we take this very seriously. It is not to serve members, it is to serve the country, so that the country can have confidence that the standards are being upheld. Every member who serves, I am just grateful to them.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank both of you, and also thank you for instilling the confidence in a lot of the Members that we can come to you for a confidential report and a confidential advisory. We do appreciate that. That does ripple through all the Congress. So we thank you. I certainly hope my name never comes across either of your desks.

Thank you.

Mr. LUNGREN. I hope so, too.

The CHAIRMAN. Good morning.

Mr. REYES. Good morning, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding Mr. Hoekstra has been detained and may not be able to make it. I am at your disposal.

The CHAIRMAN. You will have to pick up both ends of it.

Thank you for coming in. As you know, when we first met last year, you came to us for your funding, we also asked that you come back a year later and let us know how you are doing, how you are making out. We appreciate your being here today.

Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. I just am happy to see Mr. Reyes here. I am sorry Mr. Hoekstra is not here. I am sure we will hear from you as to the committee's position on budget and how things are going in terms of the working relationship, and if there is anything we need to take a look at.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Reyes, the floor is yours.

Mr. REYES. Thank you. I don't know who was sitting here before, but the seat is nice and hot.

The CHAIRMAN. We have automatic heaters for certain people that we can turn it up or turn it down, just like your committee, sir.

Mr. REYES. Very good.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. SILVESTRE REYES, CHAIRMAN, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, I thank you for providing me with an opportunity to update you on the use of the committee's budget and our authority in the first session of the 111th Congress. I want to thank both of you for your efforts towards greater accountability and transparency where committee funding is concerned.

I believe these interim reports are an important step in shedding light on the committee's financial decisions. These reports are also an excellent opportunity for a chairman to evaluate the allocation of committee resources and ask important questions about its operating expenses and the priorities of the committee.

Before I begin my statement, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that my complete statement be entered into the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

Mr. REYES. Thank you. As I noted in my February 2009 testimony before this committee, I exercised great fiscal restraint in my budget request for the committee's operation in the 111th Congress. Today, I stand by that request, and I continue to make a concerted effort to fulfill the committee's obligations to conduct appropriate oversight over the Intelligence Community in a fiscally responsible manner.

I have reviewed the committee's expenditures for legislative year 2009, along with the estimated outlays for legislative year 2010, and I am confident that no increase in budget authority will be necessary for HPSCI to complete its oversight mission and to provide the Intelligence Community with the resources and capabilities it needs to carry out its critical mission.

Mr. Chairman, the committee was authorized $5,387,500 for the first session of the 111th Congress. These funds enabled the committee to hold 99 briefings and hearings at the full committee and subcommittee levels, as well as two full committee markups. In 2009 the committee also conducted 76 foreign and domestic oversight trips.

According to the figures provided by the House Finance Office, I estimate the committee will return approximately $900,000 of its authorized budget to U.S. taxpayers. The unused funds for 2009 can be attributed to a number of factors: first, numerous equipment upgrades and purchases that came in under vendor estimates or were found to be unnecessary by the committee's security and IT staff; second, a modification in committee travel reimbursement policy from actual expenses to actual expenses within government per diem guidelines; third, an increase in foreign oversight travel under the financial auspices of the State Department and the military; and, finally, the loss of several of our most highly compensated staff members to the new administration.

In fact, the lion's share of unused funds fall within the budget category for personnel compensation funds. As you know, committee rules require all committee staff, from the staff director to staff assistant, to have a security clearance. The process of conducting the necessary clearance investigation for us is often a lengthy one. As a result, turnover in the committee can result in long vacancies during which personnel compensation funds are simply not spent. The committee also suffered from the temporary loss of one employee to a military deployment.

I would also add that when I appeared before this committee last year, the Intelligence Committee had yet to meet and approve the oversight plan for the 111th Congress. Since then, the committee adopted and has adhered to the legislative and oversight activities as they were laid out in the draft plan, with the notable addition of an expansion of lines of inquiry on the committee by Oversight and Investigations.

To that end, recent world events, like the shooting at Fort Hood and the attempted attack on Northwest Flight 254 and the December 30th attack in Khost, Afghanistan, continue to illustrate the challenges facing the Nation and the Intelligence Community.

These challenges require rigorous and vigilant oversight on the part of our committee. The committee views the responsibility to

conduct oversight not only in terms of the threats posed to our Nation, but also in terms of our Nation's ability to disrupt these activities and to be able to respond to those threats.

The funds requested are the funds required for the committee to conduct our oversight properly and, we feel, responsibly. As the primary overseer of the Intelligence Community for the U.S. House of Representatives, today I give my commitment that the committee will continue to act as guardian of the taxpayer moneys that are used to finance our intelligence programs and to account for the programs that are intended to safeguard the Nation's security and protect individual freedoms.

With that, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, I thank you for the chance to update the committee on the fiscal health of HPSCI, and I welcome any questions that you might have.

[The statement of Mr. Reyes follows:]

Statement of

Chairman Silvestre Reyes

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

on the

Committee Budget Request for 111th Congress

before the

Committee on House Administration

Wednesday, January 27th, 2010

Chairman Brady and Ranking Minority Member Lungren, I thank you for providing me with this opportunity to update you on the use of the Committee's budget authority in the First Session of the 111th Congress.

I thank you both for your efforts toward greater accountability and transparency where committee funding is concerned. I believe these interim reports are an important step in shedding light on a committee's financial decisions. These reports are also an excellent opportunity for a Chairman to evaluate the allocation of committee resources and ask important questions about its operating expenses and priorities.

Before I begin my statement, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that my complete statement be entered into the record.

As I noted in my February 2009 testimony before this Committee, I exercised great fiscal restraint in my budget request for the Committee's operations in the 111th

Congress. I stand by that request today, and I continue to make a concerted effort to fulfill the Committee's obligation to conduct appropriate oversight over the Intelligence Community in a fiscally responsible manner.

I have reviewed the Committee's expenditures for Legislative Year 2009, along with the estimated outlays for Legislative Year 2010, and I am confident that no increase in budget authority will be necessary for HPSCI to complete its oversight mission and provide the Intelligence Community with the resources and capabilities it needs to carry out its critical mission.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee was authorized $5,387,500 for the first session of the 111th Congress. These funds enabled the Committee to hold 99 briefings and hearings at the full Committee and subcommittee levels, as well as two full Committee markups. In 2009, the Committee also conducted 74 foreign and domestic oversight trips.

According to the figures provided by the House Finance Office, I estimate that the Committee will return approximately $900,000 of its authorized budget to U.S taxpayers. The unused funds for 2009 can be attributed to several factors: 1) numerous equipment upgrades and purchases that came in under vendor estimates, or were found to be unnecessary by the Committee's security and IT staff; 2) a modification in Committee travel reimbursement policy from "actual expenses" to "actual expenses within government *per diem* guidelines;" 3) an increase in foreign oversight travel under the

financial auspices of the State Department and the military; and 4) the loss of several of our most highly-compensated staff members.

In fact, the lion's share of unused funds fall within the budget category for personnel compensation funds. As you know, Committee Rules require all Committee staff – from the Staff Director to the Staff Assistant – to have a security clearance. The process of conducting the necessary clearance investigation is often a lengthy one. As a result, turnover on the Committee can result in long vacancies, during which personnel compensation funds are not spent. The Committee also suffered from the temporary loss of one employee to a military deployment.

I would also add that when I appeared before this Committee last year, the Intelligence Committee had yet to meet and approve the Oversight Plan for the 111th Congress. Since then, the Committee adopted and has adhered to the legislative and oversight activities as they were laid out in the draft plan, with the notable addition of an expansion of lines of inquiry by the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

To that end, recent world events – like the shooting at Ft. Hood, the attempted attack on Northwest Flight 253, and the December 30th attack in Khost, Afghanistan – continue to illustrate the challenges facing the nation and the Intelligence Community. These challenges require rigorous and vigilant oversight on the part of the Committee. The Committee views the responsibility to conduct oversight not only in terms of the

threats posed to our Nation, but also in terms of our Nation's ability to disrupt these activities and to respond to threats.

The funds requested are the funds required for the Committee to conduct our oversight properly and responsibly. As the primary overseer of the Intelligence Community for the U.S. House of Representatives, I give my commitment that the Committee will continue to act as guardian of the taxpayer monies used to finance our intelligence programs, and to account for the programs intended to safeguard the Nation's security and protect individual freedoms.

I thank you for the chance to update the Committee on the fiscal health of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and I welcome your questions.

U.S. House of Representatives
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
HPSCI
Monthly Statement by Paid Date
11101 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Non-Statutory Compensation	$331,969.67	$4,014,930.99	$4,014,930.99
Overtime Compensation	$912.25	$9,095.45	$9,095.45
Accrued Leave	$0.00	$15,301.65	$15,301.65
Bonus	$50,373.68	$53,898.65	$53,898.65
11-Personnel Compensation subtotal	**$383,255.60**	**$4,093,226.74**	**$4,093,226.74**
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$3,818.77	$3,818.77
12-Benefits to Current Employees subtotal	**$0.00**	**$3,818.77**	**$3,818.77**
Commercial Transportation	$0.00	$25,549.51	$25,549.51
Lodging	$1,695.26	$10,129.59	$10,129.59
Meals	$290.42	$1,610.22	$1,610.22
Car Rental	$0.00	$1,451.31	$1,451.31
Gasoline	$0.00	$108.64	$108.64
Private Auto Mileage	$345.11	$1,507.41	$1,507.41
axi/Parking/Tolls	$528.75	$7,332.64	$7,332.64
Miscellaneous Travel	$0.00	$20.00	$20.00
21-Travel subtotal	**$2,859.54**	**$47,709.32**	**$47,709.32**
Telecommunications Service, Equipment, & Toll Charges	$3,916.83	$41,154.94	$41,154.94
DC Telecommunication Equipment (TRANSFER)	$196.00	$3,214.00	$3,214.00
DC Telecommunication Service (TRANSFER)	$717.50	$7,667.50	$7,667.50
DC Telecommunication Tolls (TRANSFER)	$641.02	$6,008.31	$6,008.31
HIR Graphics (TRANSFER)	$76.00	$76.00	$76.00
Postage/Courier/Box rental	$0.00	$58.88	$58.88
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	**$5,547.35**	**$58,179.63**	**$58,179.63**
Printing & Reproduction	$0.00	$1,432.00	$1,432.00
Photographic (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$128.00	$128.00
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	**$0.00**	**$1,560.00**	**$1,560.00**
Service Contracts	$6,080.94	$72,971.28	$72,971.28
25-Other Services subtotal	**$6,080.94**	**$72,971.28**	**$72,971.28**
Bottled Water	$66.97	$2,931.87	$2,931.87
ood and Beverage	$224.21	$3,786.97	$3,786.97
Office Supplies (Outside)	$1,113.86	$10,705.84	$10,705.84
Office Supply (TRANSFER)	$413.41	$8,334.94	$8,334.94
Publications/Reference Material	$774.57	$9,738.69	$9,738.69

Description	December	FYTD Including December	Cumulative Total
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	**$2,593.02** ✓	**$35,498.31**	**$35,498.31** ✓
Office Equipment Purchases less than $25,000	$0.00	$1,139.78	$1,139.78 ✓
Computer Hardware Purchase less than $25,000	$0.00	$2,876.80	$2,876.80 ✓
Equipment & Software Maintenance	$748.54 ✓	$22,977.14	$22,977.14 ✓
Warranties	$0.00	$699.00	$699.00 ✓
31-Equipment subtotal	**$748.54** ✓	**$27,692.72**	**$27,692.72** ✓
Total Expenses	**$401,084.99** ✓	**$4,340,656.77**	**$4,340,656.77** ✓

RUN DATE: 01/08/10

FICE: INTELLIGENCE
ID: IT000

OFFICE OF FINANCE
MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
BUDGETED TO ACTUAL

AUTHORIZATION YEAR 2009
1ST SESSION, 111TH CONGRESS
MONTH OF DECEMBER 2009

SCRIPTION	AUTHORIZATION	YEAR TO DATE OBLIGATED	YTD RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED	YEAR TO DATE DISBURSED	AVAILABLE BALANCE
P GENERAL EXPENDITURES					
11 PERSONNEL COMPENSATION		0.00	0.00	4,093,226.74	
12 PERSONNEL BENEFITS		0.00	0.00	3,818.77	
21 TRAVEL		0.00	0.00	47,709.32	
23 RENT, COMMUNICATION, UTILITIES		0.01	0.00	58,179.63	
24 PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION		0.00	0.00	1,560.00	
25 OTHER SERVICES		81,937.00	0.00	72,971.28	
26 SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS		4,317.34	2,375.72	35,498.31	
31 EQUIPMENT		23,601.65	0.00	27,692.72	
TOTAL EXP GENERAL EXPENDITURES	5,387,500.00	109,856.00	2,375.72	4,340,656.77	934,611.51
FICE TOTALS	5,387,500.00	109,856.00	2,375.72	4,340,656.77	934,611.51

RUN DATE: 01/08/10

OFFICE OF FINANCE
MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
DISBURSEMENT SUMMARY

AUTHORIZATION YEAR 2009
1ST SESSION, 111TH CONGRESS
MONTH OF DECEMBER 2009

FICE: INTELLIGENCE
ID: IT000

		($) AMOUNT	YEAR-TO-DATE
P GENERAL EXPENDITURES			
11 PERSONNEL COMPENSATION	1101 NON STATUTORY COMPENSATION	331,969.67	4,014,930.99
	1103 OVERTIME COMPENSATION	912.25	9,095.45
	1104 ACCRUED LEAVE	0.00	15,301.65
	1106 BONUS	50,373.68	53,898.65
	PERSONNEL COMPENSATION TOTALS:	383,255.60	4,093,226.74
12 PERSONNEL BENEFITS	1275 TRANSIT BENEFITS	0.00	3,818.77
	PERSONNEL BENEFITS TOTALS:	0.00	3,818.77
21 TRAVEL	2101 COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION	0.00	25,549.51
	2105 LODGING	1,695.26	10,129.59
	2110 MEALS	290.42	1,610.22
	2120 CAR RENTAL	0.00	1,451.31
	2125 GASOLINE	0.00	108.64
	2130 PRIVATE OWNED VEHICLE MILEAGE	345.11	1,507.41
	2135 TAXI, PARKING, TOLLS	528.75	7,332.64
	2199 MISCELLANEOUS TRAVEL	0.00	20.00
	TRAVEL TOTALS:	2,859.54	47,709.32
23 RENT, COMMUNICATION, UTILITIES	2310 TELECOM SVC, EQUIP & TOLLS	3,916.83	41,154.94
	2320 DC TEL EQUIP (TRANSFER)	196.00	3,214.00
	2321 DC TEL SERVICE (TRANSFER)	717.50	7,667.50
	2322 DC TEL TOLLS (TRANSFER)	641.02	6,008.31
	2335 HIR GRAPHICS (TRANSFER)	76.00	76.00
	2350 POSTAGE/COURIER/BOX RENTAL	0.00	58.88
	RENT, COMMUNICATION, UTILITIES TOTALS:	5,547.35	58,179.63
24 PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION	2401 PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION	0.00	1,432.00
	2403 PHOTOGRAPHIC (TRANSFER)	0.00	128.00
	PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION TOTALS:	0.00	1,560.00
25 OTHER SERVICES	2571 TECHNOLOGY SERVICE CONTRACTS	6,080.94	72,971.28
	OTHER SERVICES TOTALS:	6,080.94	72,971.28
26 SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS			

RUN DATE: 01/08/10

OFFICE OF FINANCE
MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
DISBURSEMENT SUMMARY

OFICE: INTELLIGENCE
ID: IT000

AUTHORIZATION YEAR 2009
1ST SESSION, 111TH CONGRESS
MONTH OF DECEMBER 2009

			($) AMOUNT	YEAR-TO-DATE
	2602	BOTTLED WATER	66.97	2,931.87
	2603	FOOD & BEVERAGE	224.21	3,786.97
	2620	OFFICE SUPPLIES OUTSIDE	1,113.86	10,705.84
	2621	OFFICE SUPPLY (TRANSFER)	413.41	8,334.94
	2630	PUBLICATION REF MATERIAL	774.57	9,738.69
		SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS TOTALS:	2,593.02	35,498.31
31 EQUIPMENT				
	3105	EQUIPMENT PURCHASE < $25000	0.00	1,139.78
	3112	COMP HARDWARE PURCH < $25000	0.00	2,876.80
	3118	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	748.54	22,977.14
	3128	WARRANTIES	0.00	699.00
		EQUIPMENT TOTALS:	748.54	27,692.72
	EXP	GENERAL EXPENDITURES TOTALS:	401,084.99	4,340,656.77
		OFFICE TOTALS:	401,084.99	4,340,656.77

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentleman. We do understand that a lot of your duties are reactionary. Hopefully there will not be too many situations that you need to react to. But I thank you for the job you and your committee does.

Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. Mr. Chairman, as someone who served on the Intelligence Committee a number of years ago, I understand the work that you have to do and the need to have exceptionally talented and well-versed staff. You are dealing with some of the most important parts of our Federal Government and it takes some real drilling down to find out what we are talking about and what the conclusions and the consequences of different programs are. Having said that, I appreciate your assurance that you have sufficient staff and sufficient funding to do the job that you need to do.

One area I would ask is about modernizing your information technology equipment. When you appeared before us a year ago, you talked about the possibility of doing that. You were also about ready to utilize your new SCIFs over there at the CVC.

How well has that worked out and are you engaged in a modernization of the technology equipment, particularly given the information security needs of your committee?

Mr. REYES. Well, I am happy to report that we have, and I think everybody understands that when you are talking about technology, it is really an ongoing process, as technology changes just about every 6 months, but we have greatly enhanced our IT capability.

As you mentioned, we moved into the new offices, the new area in the Visitors Center, and like anything else that is brand new, we are still working through that. One of the areas that we just recently, we hope, completed was the ability to have access through a fingerprint pad system. We had some issues with that. It was recently completed. It seems to be working fine.

But other than those normal kinds of things that you encounter, we have made a good transition to the new area. We are very happy with that. We think it greatly enhances not just our capabilities for the staff and Members, but it also provides us greater flexibility in doing the kinds of things we need to do to make sure we carry out our responsibilities.

Mr. LUNGREN. Do you have any reason to believe that Mr. Hoekstra would have a different position in terms of the sufficiency of your funding?

Mr. REYES. I don't believe so. We are basically following the same pattern that he used when he was chair of the committee. So I think in that respect, although we may disagree philosophically on some political issues, I think the most important thing, and the priority for me as it was for him, is to make sure that we do the work that is necessary to keep our Nation safe.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for coming in front of us, and thank you for the job you do.

Mr. REYES. Thank you all again. I appreciate the opportunity to come before you.

The CHAIRMAN. Good morning.

Mr. RANGEL. Good morning.

The CHAIRMAN. We take it you two are getting along.

Mr. RANGEL. We want set the impression.

Mr. LUNGREN. It looks good so far.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you again for appearing in front of us and coming back. We had a hearing a year ago when we did the funding. We asked that you come back and report how you are doing financially and with staff. Hopefully we can be helpful, or hopefully you are fine.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Mr. RANGEL. Thank you for giving us this opportunity, you and my friend, the Ranking Member. If we were doing nearly as well politically as we are doing administratively, it would be a great report.

But we have worked very closely, our staffs, with the Minority. They receive one-third of the allocations that you have been able to give to us. We do ask for three additional staff members: two for the Majority and one for the Minority. We have had a total of 40 hearings and 9 markups. 1,200 bills, or 17 percent, of all House bills have been referred to Ways and Means. 32 went to the floor, and of that number 15 have become law.

We have taken every opportunity, few as they may be, to work in a friendly and bipartisan way, and the committee has been good to us and we are pretty proud of our record and comity and our ability to work together.

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

[The statement of Mr. Rangel follows:]

Statement
Chairman Charles B. Rangel
Committee on Ways and Means
January 27, 2010

- Funding has not been a partisan issue in our Committee. There have been disagreements, but this has not been one of them.

- The Minority is given their third of the allocation, and they will continue to do so. This includes, salaries and travel.

- For 2009, we received $10,119,889.

- Of this, we spent $9,023,148, or 89%, of our allotment.

- Most of this went to staff salaries and the rest went to equipment upgrades.

- We have asked the Speaker for three additional staff slots.

- Our staff has been asked to work long hours and are overburdened, sacrificing their personal lives to carry out the agenda of the American people.

- It would lessen the strain and enable our Committee to continue to do its work.

- We are also in need of more space.

01/14/10

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ways and Means

Fund Balance Statement by CHA Requirements
December

Total Authorization		
111-1		**$10,119,889.00**
Less Expenses for:		
January	2009	$582,166.20
February		$653,531.85
March		$652,427.88
April		$703,263.23
May		$692,725.93
June		$716,263.14
July		$720,646.24
August		$753,798.85
September		$808,423.08
October		$784,142.98
November		$793,066.05
December		$796,066.64
Total Expenses to Date:		**$8,656,522.07**
Unexpended authorization		**$1,463,366.93**

01/12/10

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ways and Means

Monthly Statement by CHA Requirements
111-1 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Accrued Leave	$0.00	$1,991.67	$1,991.67
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$8,955.67	$8,955.67
Commercial Transportation	$0.00	$1,905.60	$1,905.60
- subtotal	**$0.00**	**$12,852.94**	**$12,852.94**
Statutory Compensation	$751,640.18	$8,204,812.44	$8,204,812.44
11- subtotal	**$751,640.18**	**$8,204,812.44**	**$8,204,812.44**
Meals	$0.00	$53.43	$53.43
Taxi/Parking/Tolls	$425.00	$2,037.75	$2,037.75
Travel Subsistence	$0.00	$959.15	$959.15
21-Travel subtotal	**$425.00**	**$3,050.33**	**$3,050.33**
Telecommunication Equipment	$359.98	$1,289.85	$1,289.85
DC Telecommunication Equipment (TRANSFER)	$562.00	$6,261.87	$6,261.87
DC Telecommunication Service (TRANSFER)	$1,490.00	$16,390.00	$16,390.00
DC Telecommunication Tolls (TRANSFER)	$7,699.97	$101,884.79	$101,884.79
HIR Graphics (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$283.00	$283.00
Postage/Courier/Box rental	$0.00	$74.11	$74.11
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	**$10,111.95**	**$126,183.62**	**$126,183.62**
Printing & Reproduction	$71.80	$1,744.00	$1,744.00
Photographic (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$61.00	$61.00
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	**$71.80**	**$1,805.00**	**$1,805.00**
Service Contracts	$0.00	$3,750.00	$3,750.00
Training	$0.00	$8,879.80	$8,879.80
Representational Expenses	$0.00	$311.07	$311.07
Web sevl, hosting, email	$3,308.44	$22,935.93	$22,935.93
25-Other Services subtotal	**$3,308.44**	**$35,876.80**	**$35,876.80**
Bottled Water	$588.20	$4,781.37	$4,781.37
Food and Beverage	$10.00	$4,544.04	$4,544.04
Habitation Expense	$0.00	$1,600.00	$1,600.00
Office Supplies (Outside)	$10,923.44	$47,947.77	$47,947.77
Office Supply (TRANSFER)	$8,763.01	$26,539.26	$26,539.26
Publications/Reference Material	$8,600.11	$134,877.48	$134,877.48
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	**$28,884.76**	**$220,289.92**	**$220,289.92**
Office Equipment Purchases less than $25,000	$0.00	$12,365.00	$12,365.00
Computer Hardware Purchase less than $25,000	$0.00	$15,055.68	$15,055.68

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Computer Software Purchase less than $10,000	$0.00	$3,775.01	$3,775.01
Equipment & Software Maintenance	$1,624.51	$20,325.37	$20,325.37
Warranties	$0.00	$129.96	$129.96
31-Equipment subtotal	**$1,624.51**	**$51,651.02**	**$51,651.02**
Total Expenses	**$796,066.64**	**$8,656,522.07**	**$8,656,522.07**

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Mr. Camp.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. DAVE CAMP, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Mr. CAMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Lungren, and members of committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear here with Chairman Rangel in support of our budget allocation for the second session of the 111th Congress.

I do want to say that I agree with Chairman Rangel that from an administrative standpoint, there has been no partisanship on this committee. The committee has been—he has done an excellent job of running the committee from an administrative standpoint. We do receive our full one-third share, as was the case when we were in the Majority. The Minority got a third share and the Majority got a two-thirds share. So this is the way the committee has been run for some time, and I just want to say that has gone very well.

We do need the substantial resources that you have allocated to us to do our jobs effectively. As the Chairman said, we have had many hearings and a number of high-profile issues come to our committee, and particularly we anticipate that in the year ahead as we look at ways to focus on and create jobs.

I also want to support the Chairman's request for an increase in our committee staff allotment. Under the increase the Majority would receive two, we would receive one. I will say that in terms of this year, from my standpoint, I did not realize I was going to be the Ranking Member and get authority for that until January. So much of last year we were bringing our staff together, putting a team together, and bringing people on throughout the year, so we did not have everybody on staff and in place in January. But that has been occurring through the months of the year.

Again, I want to support the committee's 2010 allocation, and would be prepared to answer any questions.

[The statement of Mr. Camp follows:]

Statement of Dave Camp, Ranking Republican
Committee on Ways and Means
Before the Committee on House Administration
January 27, 2010

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Lungren and Members of the Committee, I appreciate having the opportunity to appear this morning with Chairman Rangel in support of our budget allocation for the second session of the 111th Congress.

I want to express my appreciation to Chairman Rangel for working with me and my staff and his continued support of granting the Minority full control of one third of the budget and resources.

As we testified last year, we do need substantial resources to do our jobs effectively. The Ways and Means Committee saw many high profile issues pass through our hearing room during the first session of this Congress. There are still many difficult challenges that face the average American, and many of the most important policies to be considered this year are likely to originate in the Committee, particularly as all of us focus on ways to create jobs.

Speaking on behalf of the Minority office, given the current tough economic times facing many Americans, we spent our 2009 budget allocation in a fiscally responsible manner. As such many of our investments in information technology, equipment and staff salaries were restrained during this past year.

On a whole our Committee is slated to receive an increase of 3.75% over our 2009 budget allocation. As we did in 2009, the Minority office will utilize these funds in a fiscally responsible manner. We hope as the economy begins to show signs of improvement, further investments in information technology and staff salaries would be more appropriate.

I also offer my support to Chairman Rangel's request for an increase in our Committee staff allotment from 82 to 85 staff. Under this increase, the Majority office would receive two additional staff slots and the Minority office receiving one additional staff slot. This is a modest increase, but a needed increase. As the work of the Committee increases, so too does the workload we place on our staff. The increase in staff slots coupled with our 2010 budget will help us facilitate hiring and keeping quality staff.

Accordingly, I again offer my support the Ways and Means Committee's 2010 budget allocation. An increase in our current budget will provide additional resources to meet the challenges of the 111th Congress Second Session.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify again, and I would be pleased to respond to any questions you might have.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. I thank you, and I thank both of you for appearing before us. I appreciate the spirit of comity with which you have addressed, as you keep saying, administratively your responsibilities.

I think this is important for the public to understand, I note that in virtually every case the committees did not spend all the money that was authorized and appropriated for them. So, actually those moneys have been saved.

The question does arise—and I know you can answer this, but I would just like it for the record—that at the least according to the reports we had from the committee, you did not spend about $1,463,000 of your budget. I am not going to criticize you for that because, again, that shows you didn't try to spend everything, as we sometimes find the executive branch appears to make sure that they spend every penny.

But would some of that savings from last year be, as you suggested, Mr. Camp, that you were building up your staff, you didn't have your total staff the entire time? Would that be part of it?

Mr. CAMP. That would be part of it. We obviously tried to be very careful, knowing that this is a 2-year plan. But, yes, I was really getting the team together for part of last year and did not have everybody in place, so that would explain part of that. But also we tried to be responsible, particularly in the first year of a 2-year session.

Mr. LUNGREN. As I understand also, and I believe it is in your formal statement, Mr. Chairman, that you did some upgrades on equipment. Is that ongoing?

And, secondly, one of the concerns people have expressed has been are we doing a good enough job as a Congress, in our offices and committees, in terms of protection of our IT? That is, are you getting the support you need from our IT operation and our operation that protects against cyberattacks and so forth?

Mr. RANGEL. I hope that you can leave the record open so I can give a more detailed report, because, quite frankly, I haven't received any complaints. But I have to tell you that we have been working this staff so hard because of the recent political and legislative position we find ourselves in. So we don't know exactly what we have to do to keep our staff.

I might even add that Republicans and Democrats have made it a lot easier for the Members by giving us guidance as to things that we can do and, just as importantly, things that politically we can't even think about.

So in terms of IT and the other things, I will have to take a look. If you will leave the record open, I will get a report for you.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, we can leave the record open for you to come back with that report.

[The information follows:]

Submission for the Record
The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
February 23, 2010

In response to Mr. Lungren's question:

House Information Resources (HIR) has been helpful to our Committee with regard to the recent cyber security concerns. HIR has instituted Firewalls, Spam Filtering, Blackberry Encryption Securities, and all P2P connections have been blocked. In terms of mobile security, the Committee on Ways and Means plans to purchase Norton Anti-Virus 360.

The majority of the expenditures made by the Committee in 2009 were for equipment life cycle upgrades in the amount of: $180,197. Life cycle upgrades include workstations, Blackberries, small printers, scanners, cell phones, and fax machines. $12,144 was spent in supplies, which includes software such as Microsoft Office and Word Perfect, among other supplies. $4,189 was spent on training. It is important to our Committee that the Information Technology staff has latest tools and training in the technology field to assist us in our work.

The Committee dedicated $11,963 to improve video streaming technologies in our effort to make proceedings more transparent and user-friendly. Improvements were made to the website to better enable the public to submit comments for the record, as well as to better navigate the large amount of documents that the Committee produces for a total of $2,500.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Gonzalez.

Mr. GONZALEZ. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I understand there are three new positions—is that right, Mr. Chairman—that are going to be added, or you wish to fill; is that correct?

Mr. RANGEL. Yes, we are asking for that.

Mr. HARPER. Is it possible, certainly in light of our current economy in this country, is it possible that those positions could remain unfilled? What impact would that have on the committee if the positions are not filled at this time?

Mr. RANGEL. I can't tell you, and I don't want to find out, frankly. Our staff doesn't have enough hours in the day. Whether it is weekend or late at night, we do what has to be done. They are so very supportive. Because of the complexity of some of our work, it is really one of those cases that the Members can't get along without them. It is not an 8-hour day. Anything we can do to ease the hours they spend away from their families, we want to do it. In their opinion, we could use three workers. Believe me, we have had a history, as Dave Camp has said, in doing the best we can with what we have to work with. We would not ask for this unless it was really badly needed.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Camp.

Mr. CAMP. I just want to comment and really second that. We do have an experienced staff on both sides with a great deal of technical expertise, whether it is trade, tax, or health care, and it is very important that we have that continuity because these are complex issues.

I will say that on both sides, Republicans and Democrats, they work often until 1 and 2 in the morning, and especially as we are preparing for any kind of hearing or legislation.

So we do need that assistance. There is no new dollar request behind those positions. It is within the existing budget. So we would like to be able to have some more hands on deck, frankly. Thank you.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you, Mr. Camp. No additional questions.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentleman. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. I have no questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. I thank both of you for coming. We appreciate your time and your effort with us.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair would like to make a brief announcement while we are waiting for our Energy and Commerce members. I will give up the chair to Mr. Gonzalez, who asked to chair for that, and ask him if he would stay a little longer if necessary, because I have been summoned to the Speaker's office, and I am hoping I am summoned to her office and not the woodshed. If I come back with a smile, I am in good shape. If not, I will come back as quick as I can. Thank you.

Mr. BARTON. Are you ready for us?

Mr. GONZALEZ [presiding]. We are ready for Energy and Commerce.

The committee will next consider the budget request of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Of course, we have the Chair-

man, Mr. Waxman, and the Ranking Member. Each of you will be given 5 minutes to make your statements, and then, if we have some questions, we will be recognizing members of the committee. Welcome, good morning, and my personal apologies for not being there at the committee this morning as we take up the Burgess resolution.

Mr. Waxman.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Mr. WAXMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. I want to thank you for this opportunity to testify and to report on the Committee on Energy and Commerce's 111th Congress expenditures. I am pleased to be here with the committee's Ranking Member, Joe Barton.

When I testified before you last February, I described the ambitious agenda planned for the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the 111th Congress. At this halfway point in the Congress, I am proud to report that the committee has already accomplished a significant portion of that agenda.

In the past year, the committee reported comprehensive legislation addressing three of the top priorities of the new Obama administration and the American public: health care reform, climate change legislation, and energy independence. We also reported food safety reform, tobacco legislation, chemical and drinking water security legislation, and consumer financial protection legislation.

At the same time, the committee maintained a vigorous oversight schedule, including hearings on issues relating to the complexity of the task of reducing greenhouse gas emissions; the future of our electricity grid; government management of high-containment bioresearch laboratories; government regulation of medical devices and Medicare and Medicaid programs; business practices in the health insurance market the collection of consumer debt, a broadband program created by the Recovery Act; and cybersecurity issues, among many others.

At the beginning of the year, I asked for an increase in funds so that the committee could hire staff to fill gaps in expertise and ensure sufficient support for the heavy anticipated workload facing the committee and its subcommittees. I was pleased that the committee received a 8.3 percent increase over the previous year's funding.

Consistent with our request, the committee used those funds to hire staff, including a senior Medicare expert, a senior attorney with significant experience in environmental regulatory work, and staff for the chairman emeritus to assist with the health reform effort.

Overall, after outstanding invoices and obligations are paid, the committee will have spent 99 percent of the total funds provided to us. I believe this figure underscores that our budget for this year was planned and executed in a responsible manner.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce will continue to carry out a full agenda in the second year of the 111th Congress. We believe the funds provided for the committee in the funding resolu-

tion are consistent with the projected budget needs of the committee for the remainder of this Congress.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

[The statement of Mr. Waxman follows:]

Statement before the Committee on House Administration
Status of Funding for the Committee on Energy and Commerce
111th Congress
Henry Waxman, Chairman
January 27, 2010

Chairman Brady, I want to thank you, Ranking Member Lungren, and the other members of this Committee for the opportunity to report on the Committee on Energy and Commerce's 111th Congress expenditures. I am pleased to be here with the Committee's Ranking Member, Joe Barton.

When I testified before you last February, I described the ambitious agenda planned for the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the 111th Congress. At this halfway point in the Congress, I am proud to report that the Committee has already accomplished a significant portion of that agenda.

In the past year, the Committee reported comprehensive legislation addressing three of the top priorities of the new Obama Administration and the American public: health care reform, climate change legislation, and energy independence. We also reported food safety reform, tobacco legislation, chemical and drinking water security legislation, and consumer financial protection legislation.

At the same time, the Committee maintained a vigorous oversight schedule, including hearings on issues relating to the complexity of the task of reducing greenhouse gas emissions; the future of our electricity grid; government management of high-containment bioresearch laboratories; government regulation of medical devices; the Medicare and Medicaid programs; business practices in the health insurance market; the collection of consumer data; broadband programs created by the recovery act; and cybersecurity issues; among many others.

At the beginning of the year, I asked for an increase in funds so that the Committee could hire staff to fill gaps in expertise and ensure sufficient support for the heavy anticipated workload facing the Committee and its subcommittees. I was pleased that the Committee received an 8.3% increase over the previous year's funding. Consistent with our request, the Committee used those funds to hire staff including a senior Medicare expert, a senior attorney with significant experience in environmental regulatory work, and staff for the Chairman Emeritus to assist with the health reform effort.

Overall, after outstanding invoices and obligations are paid, the Committee will have spent 99% of the total funds provided to the Committee. I believe this figure underscores that our budget for this year was planned and executed in a responsible manner.

The Energy and Commerce Committee will continue to carry out a full agenda in the second year of the 111th Congress. We believe the funds provided for the Committee in the funding resolution are consistent with the projected budget needs of the Committee for the remainder of this Congress.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Chairman
111th Congress, First Session

FUND BALANCE STATEMENT
December 2009

Total Authorization, 111th Congress 1st Session.....$11,569,181

Less Expenses:

January	$759,691.93
February	$827,086.80
March	$840,696.11
April	$862,649.29
May	$896,130.04
June	$928,717.00
July	$915,111.09
August	$898,291.93
September	$1,022,287.95
October	$1,010,940.49
November	$993,015.53
December	$1,208,397.48

Total Committee Expenses to Date.....$11,162,920.73

Unexpended Authorization, First Session, 111th Congress.....$406,260.27

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Monthly Statement by CHA Requirements
111-1 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Non-Statutory Compensation	$1,122,324.89	$10,395,301.90	$10,395,301.92
Overtime Compensation	$5,145.74	$39,435.33	$39,435.33
Accrued Leave	$0.00	$23,003.75	$23,003.75
11-Personnel Compensation subtotal	**$1,127,470.63**	**$10,457,740.98**	**$10,457,741.00**
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$14,965.75	$14,965.75
12-Benefits to Current Employees subtotal	**$0.00**	**$14,965.75**	**$14,965.75**
Commercial Transportation	$0.00	$19,276.22	$19,276.22
Lodging	$0.00	$399.62	$399.62
Taxi/Parking/Tolls	$80.00	$1,214.75	$1,214.75
Travel Subsistence	$1,132.04	$15,497.29	$15,497.29
Witness Travel/Related Expenses	$543.02	$8,826.87	$8,826.87
Detailee Travel	$0.00	$619.08	$619.08
Miscellaneous Travel	$0.00	$300.00	$300.00
1-Travel subtotal	**$1,755.06**	**$46,133.83**	**$46,133.83**
Telecommunications Service and Equipment	$589.95	$2,458.74	$2,458.74
DC Telecommunication Equipment (TRANSFER)	$1,012.00	$18,521.23	$18,521.23
DC Telecommunication Service (TRANSFER)	$1,940.00	$24,922.50	$24,922.50
DC Telecommunication Tolls (TRANSFER)	$8,325.01	$93,015.29	$93,015.29
HIR Graphics (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$1,672.00	$1,672.00
Recording - (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$352.00	$352.00
Postage/Courier/Box rental	$0.00	$201.02	$201.02
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	**$11,866.96**	**$141,142.78**	**$141,142.78**
Printing & Reproduction	$759.88	$12,201.05	$12,201.05
Photographic (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$140.80	$140.80
Advertisements	$0.00	$7,286.16	$7,286.16
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	**$759.88**	**$19,628.01**	**$19,628.01**
Service Contracts	$0.00	$1,804.49	$1,804.49
Consultant Contract Service	$6,823.72	$78,255.58	$78,255.58
Janitorial and Maintenance Services	$0.00	$3,036.00	$3,036.00
Technology Service Contracts	$2,209.16	$20,509.92	$20,509.92
Web Development, Hosting	$2,858.44	$31,620.43	$31,620.43
25-Other Services subtotal	**$11,891.32**	**$135,226.42**	**$135,226.42**
Bottled Water	$666.98	$7,020.38	$7,020.38
Food and Beverage	$0.00	$2,145.16	$2,145.16

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Office Supplies (Outside)	$1,402.99	$34,311.93	$34,311.93
Office Supply (TRANSFER)	$1,255.13	$40,332.01	$40,332.01
ublications/Reference Material	$25,611.62	$106,320.31	$106,320.31
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	**$28,936.72**	**$190,129.79**	**$190,129.79**
Office Equipment Purchases less than $25,000	$19,606.00	$34,513.61	$34,513.61
Computer Hardware Purchase less than $25,000	$2,527.74	$74,076.40	$74,076.40
Computer Software Purchase less than $10,000	$0.00	$1,549.00	$1,549.00
Equipment & Software Maintenance	$3,583.17	$47,814.14	$47,814.14
31-Equipment subtotal	**$25,716.91**	**$157,953.15**	**$157,953.15**
Total Expenses	**$1,208,397.48**	**$11,162,920.71**	**$11,162,920.73**

Mr. GONZALEZ [presiding]. Thank You, Chairman Waxman.

At this time the Chair will recognize Mr. Barton, the ranking member.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JOE BARTON, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Mr. BARTON. Thank you, Chairman Gonzalez and Congressman Harper. It is always good to appear before the House Administration Committee. The Republicans or the minority on the Energy and Commerce Committee have fought Chairman Waxman and the majority, as you well know, Mr. Chairman, tooth and nail on all or most of the policy issues that he just enunciated. I am happy to report that on most of the policy initiatives, while they have grudgingly gotten out of the committee, they have not become law because we have been able to bloody him so much that he has not had the energy to push it forward.

But on the administrative front, Mr. Chairman, we have worked in, if not perfect harmony, certainly a spirit of fellowship and goodwill. We have had a fair allocation. Two-thirds of the budget, as it should, has gone to the majority and one-third, as it should, has gone to the minority.

Chairman Waxman indicated that the majority has spent 99 percent of their budget allocation. I am proud to report that minority has spent only 98 percent; so we have doubled the amount we are turning back, and I am very proud of that. Even though we had less to spend, we are turning more back.

So all we ask, Mr. Chairman, is fairness. The two-thirds/one-third allocation, which has been the norm in the committee under former Chairman Dingell, Chairman Bliley, Chairman Tauzin, myself, and now Chairman Waxman, we are very appreciative of. So we hope the budget allocation continues on that path.

If I could change the subject just a second, as a Member I want to talk about this new password protection program for our BlackBerries. I am not opposed to a password. My initial password was being triggered every 2 minutes, which makes it almost impossible to use. I have asked the House Information if we could lengthen the time. We have got mine up to 30 minutes. I would very respectfully request we give Members the discretion to go up to 6 hours or something so that I am not continuously having to rekey my password. I don't use my BlackBerry continuously like some Members. So every time I have to use it, I have got to key in—key in the pass code, and sometimes in the heat of the moment, being an Aggie, I forget what it is and then I get frustrated and then I yell at my staff, and it is just a bad situation, Mr. Chairman. So if you could encourage the administrators to give us a little bit more time on our password length, I would appreciate that.

[The statement of Mr. Barton follows:]

Statement of the Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Before the Committee on House Administration
January 27, 2010

Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren, I am pleased to be here today to report on our expenditures for the first session of the 111th Congress.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce has been a battleground for policy ideas and differences. We have worked on some of the most important topics that affect Americans. But I want to assure you that we have not had to fight over our funding allocation.

Since we appeared here last year, Chairman Waxman and I have never had to discuss the budget, because there have been no problems. The budget has run smoothly according to the 2/3 for the majority and 1/3 for the minority.

The Republicans did not spend all the money we were allocated due, in part, to some personnel departures where the replacement to fill the slot lagged.

Aside from personnel spending, which consumes the lion share of our budget, our largest spending category was equipment. In addition to purchasing new computers to replace older laptops that were out of warranty, we used unspent funds to purchase a new copier at the end of 2009 and replace an ailing copier we originally budgeted for purchase in 2010. We do not anticipate any additional major equipment purchases.

Looking forward to this year's budget, the allocation for the Republicans is adequate to meet our needs. As I stated last year, we will find a way to make do with any amount we are given so long as it is a fair split between the majority and minority.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mr. GONZALEZ. You ask much of the committee, but we are going to be looking into it. As a matter of fact, it was just this morning I reset mine to 30 minutes. Mine was at a few minutes. So I understand.

At this time I am going to recognize Mr. Harper for any questions he may have.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know during the hearings last year there was talk about transitional costs due to the change in chairmanships in order to compensate some of the staff on that transitional basis.

Have those costs subsided or are we looking at perhaps future savings as a result of that?

Mr. WAXMAN. The costs turned out to be approximately $150,000. This number reflected the salary costs related to maintaining staff from the 110th Congress through the transition period; so we were pretty clearly on the mark as to what we would need for that purpose.

Mr. HARPER. And do you care to respond to the savings ratio statement by Ranking Member Barton?

Mr. WAXMAN. I heard it. It sounded pretty good.

Mr. HARPER. No other questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BARTON. There will be other transitional costs next year when the Republicans are transitioning back into the majority. So we will have 150,000 or maybe we can do it for 100,000 next year.

Mr. GONZALEZ. You can't say that Mr. Barton does not miss an opportunity.

Mr. WAXMAN. We will make an argument to the American people not to change things because it will just cost more money.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Waxman, I am going to join you in that. But quickly, it is interesting, I mean if you think a year ago you come in and you ask for the budget, today you are here showing us the use of it and you're under budget and such. But was there anything coming in as new chairman of obviously a committee with huge jurisdiction and the workload and what was produced, was there any unforeseen challenge, anything that you didn't anticipate? Obviously the budget went well, but what was the challenge coming in as the new chairman of this committee when it comes to the budget?

Mr. WAXMAN. Well, we had an extensive legislative agenda, as I mentioned in my opening statement, as well as an oversight agenda, and that is going to continue on in the next year as well. We plan to address Toxic Substances Control Act, the public safety network interoperability, spectrum policy, broadband stimulus, FCC reform, workforce programs, and Title VII of the Public Health Service Act, reauthorization of the substance abuse and mental health services block grants, cybersecurity threats to the electricity grid, and other issues relating to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

I am hopeful that these issues will be less polarizing and less partisan than we found some of the issues in this previous year as we looked at climate change and health care, which saw us pretty much voting by and large, not exclusively, but by and large on a party line basis. But I am hopeful that we can get back to a time that I remember well in the Congress when we didn't act as Demo-

crats and Republicans, where we were looked as solvers of problems, trying to get the best judgments and advice from anybody.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you very much, Mr. Waxman. Anything further?

Mr. WAXMAN. Could I comment on another subject?

Mr. GONZALEZ. Yes, go right ahead.

Mr. WAXMAN. In the Visitors Center I have been surprised to find that our BlackBerries are unable to work. We, when I was chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, provided that the subway systems in the Washington area should have the system in place to allow a spectrum that would be available for handheld devices, and it just seems to me, unless there is a national security reason, we ought to be able to have the room in the Visitors Center where Members get together for meetings and caucuses and whatever, a place where we should be able to get access to the spectrum.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Waxman, I am just being informed as you were expressing your concerns that that actually is being addressed as we speak and it is being contracted and such. So hopefully we will be addressing that particular problem.

And Mr. Barton, the 30-minute reset we are going to find out what we can do about that.

But again thank you very much for your testimony.

Mr. WAXMAN. Thank you.

Mr. GONZALEZ: I see Mr. Lucas out there. We're actually running a little early and we don't have Mr. Peterson here yet, but if you want to come up and have a seat. Wherever you're the most comfortable. You come up, we're going to start talking about Oklahoma State Cowboys football. What does next season look like?

Mr. LUCAS. Well, after the joys of the Cotton Bowl this time . . . once again, that eternally optimistic Oklahoma State enthusiasm kicks in. But the good citizens of the great state of Texas were wonderful hosts for the Cotton Bowl, even if it did turn out to be a challenging game, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Ha! A lot of things could have gone better for many teams. I was in Pasadena for the Texas game, so that was painful.

Mr. LUCAS. I understand and my sympathies entirely.

Mr. GONZALEZ. I tell you! We like going around telling people that we almost beat Alabama with a freshman quarterback. That's the only way you can get away with that. Mr. Harper, you can appreciate the spin that we had to give that one. It was a very interesting game. It's a heartbreaker, I tell you.

Mr. LUCAS. And being a proud supported of the Big 12 family, I cheer for our colleagues.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Almost did it. Well, it'll be interesting.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Chairman, being an SEC fan, I'll just keep quiet.

Mr. GONZALEZ: I figured you were going to chime in there

Mr. LUCAS. And, probably, until our budget's verified, I should agree with that, too, as a witness.

Mr. GONZALEZ. The chairman is here. Welcome, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PETERSON. Sorry I am late.

Mr. GONZALEZ. You are still 2 minutes early, but we are going to start early. So next we are going to be reviewing the use of funds by the Committee on Agriculture and we have the chairman and ranking member. Each of you of will have 5 minutes, and then we will have questions that will be posed by members of the committee as they so desire.

Chairman Peterson.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Mr. PETERSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, for inviting us to share our progress report on the budget during the past year and the year ahead, and I appreciate my good friend the Ranking Member, Mr. Lucas, for joining me today in this discussion.

During the past year the Agriculture Committee addressed a full slate of issues, including primarily the financial derivatives reform and conducting oversight on the implementation of the farm bill that we passed in 2008. In addition, the Committee spent significant time working with other Committees on a number of other major issues.

When we last sat before this Committee to present our proposed budget, we outlined the need for a modest increase in the Committee's budget to accommodate the legislative and oversight agenda that we expected to pursue. While we succeeded in addressing many areas on our agenda during the past year, a great deal of work remains to be done in the year ahead.

Mr. Chairman, a major priority of the Committee during the last year was the completion and enactment of strong regulations to address the lack of transparency and oversight of derivatives markets. After extensive hearings on these markets in late 2008, particularly concerning the markets for unregulated over-the-counter swaps contracts and their role in the financial meltdown, our Committee moved swiftly after the 111th Congress convened to pass a strong bipartisan bill last February. That bill served as a marker as we worked with other Committees and the Administration on broad financial regulatory reform.

Last summer the Committee reviewed the Administration's derivatives regulation proposals; and in October we passed another bill to strengthen our earlier effort; and finally in December, an amendment was made to the financial regulatory reform bill on the floor containing many of the principles passed by our Committee and was included in the final version of legislation that passed the House.

During the past year, the Committee also devoted significant time and resources to monitoring the implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill. We held numerous hearings and associated meetings with Administration officials to ensure that Congressional intent is followed as provisions are carried out. These are essential programs for our farmers and ranchers in rural communities, environmental conservation, renewable energy production, and those who during these difficult economic times must increasingly rely on the nutrition programs that are funded by the farm bill.

Moving forward, the Committee will continue to work on these important and timely issues, and in the months ahead we will begin to hold hearings and consider new ideas for the next farm bill.

In March we plan to have hearings here in Washington and then over the next year we will hold field hearings around the country so that producers and consumers can tell us how the current farm bill is working and what they would like to see in the next farm bill. This is a resource-intensive process, but as we have learned from previous Farm Bills, this homework is an invaluable component of successful legislation because it allows us to understand the implications and the impact of existing policies as we gather new ideas for those who are on the ground and actively participating in these programs.

Also, I believe that getting an early start helps us to get to a bipartisan end, which is not always easy to do. We, however, work very hard in the Agriculture Committee to make sure that we have a bipartisan product and we intend to do that again this farm bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a status report on the Agriculture Committee's budget. We continue to use the resources provided to us wisely to carry out the Committee's important work, and I am happy to answer any questions that you or the Committee will have and we will try to continue to work in a bipartisan fashion to accomplish our agenda in the 111th Congress.

Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Peterson follows:]

Testimony of
Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin C. Peterson
Before the House Administration Committee
January 27, 2010

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, for inviting us to share a progress report on the budget of the Agriculture Committee during the past year and the year ahead. I appreciate Ranking Member Frank Lucas joining me today for this discussion.

During the past year, the Agriculture Committee addressed a full slate of issues, including financial derivatives reform and conducting oversight on the implementation of the Farm Bill that we passed in 2008. In addition, the Committee spent significant time working with other Committees on a number of other major issues.

When we last sat before this Committee to present our proposed budget, we outlined the need for a modest increase in the Committee's budget to accommodate the legislative and oversight agenda we expected to pursue. While we succeeded in addressing many areas on our agenda during the past year, a great deal of work remains to be done in the year ahead.

Mr. Chairman, a major priority of the Committee during the last year was the completion and enactment of strong regulations to address the lack of transparency and oversight of derivatives markets. After extensive hearings on these markets in late 2008, particularly concerning the markets for unregulated over-the-counter swaps contracts and their role in the financial meltdown, our Committee moved swiftly after the 111th Congress convened to pass a strong, bipartisan bill last February. That bill served as a marker as we worked with other Committees and the Administration on broad financial regulatory reform. Last summer, the Committee reviewed the Administration's derivatives regulation proposals; in October, we passed another bill to strengthen our earlier effort; and finally in December, an amendment to financial regulatory reform containing many of the principles passed by our Committee was included in the final version of the legislation that passed the House.

During the past year, the Committee also devoted significant time and resources to monitoring the implementation of the 2008 Farm Bill. We held numerous hearings and associated meetings with Administration officials to ensure that Congressional intent is followed as provisions of the bill are carried out. These are essential programs for farmers and ranchers, rural communities, environmental conservation, renewable energy production, and those who, during these difficult economic times, increasingly must rely on the nutrition programs funded by the Farm Bill.

Moving forward, the Committee will continue to work on these important and timely issues, and in the months ahead, we will begin to hold hearings and consider new ideas for the next Farm Bill. In March, we plan to have hearings in Washington, DC, and then we will hold field hearings around the country so that producers and consumers can tell

us how the current Farm Bill is working and what they would like to see in the next Farm Bill.

This is a resource-intensive process, but as we have learned from previous Farm Bills, this homework is an invaluable component of successful legislation because it allows us to understand the implications and impact of existing policies as we gather new ideas from those who are on the ground and actively participating in these programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a status report on the Agriculture Committee's budget. We continue to use the resources provided to us wisely to carry out the Committee's important work. I am happy to answer any questions that you have and will continue to work in a bipartisan fashion to accomplish our agenda for the 111th Congress.

###

01/12/10

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
FULL
Monthly Statement by CHA Requirements
2009 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Training Expense	$0.00	$120.00	$120.00
- subtotal	**$0.00**	**$120.00**	**$120.00**
Non Statutory Compensation	$412,508.37	$4,894,155.92	$4,894,155.92
Accrued Leave	$0.00	$5,194.10	$5,194.10
11- subtotal	**$412,508.37**	**$4,899,350.02**	**$4,899,350.02**
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$5,891.93	$5,891.93
12-Personnel Benefits subtotal	**$0.00**	**$5,891.93**	**$5,891.93**
Plane/Train	$0.00	$5,982.01	$5,982.01
Taxi, Parking, Tolls	$33.00	$167.00	$167.00
Travel Reimbursement	$0.00	$5,383.42	$5,383.42
Consultant Travel/Related Expenses	$0.00	$90.30	$90.30
Field Hearing Support costs	$0.00	$597.00	$597.00
21-Travel subtotal	**$33.00**	**$12,219.73**	**$12,219.73**
DC Telephone Equipment Charge	$248.00	$3,550.00	$3,550.00
DC Telephone Service Charge	$975.00	$10,672.50	$10,672.50
DC Telephone Tolls Charge	$7,536.97	$77,338.66	$77,338.66
Postage, Courier, Delivery, Box rental	$0.00	$583.12	$583.12
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	**$8,759.97**	**$92,144.28**	**$92,144.28**
Printing and Production	$459.30	$1,385.90	$1,385.90
Photographic Expenses Charge	$6.40	$176.80	$176.80
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	**$465.70**	**$1,562.70**	**$1,562.70**
Consultant Contracts	$6,666.66	$73,333.26	$73,333.26
Representational expenses	$0.00	$311.61	$311.61
Technology Service Contracts	$1,078.09	$12,937.08	$12,937.08
WEB DEVL HOSTNG EMAIL & RELSRV	$6,120.96	$17,792.96	$17,792.96
25-Other Services subtotal	**$13,865.71**	**$104,374.91**	**$104,374.91**
Bottled Water	$483.59	$5,007.44	$5,007.44
Food and Beverage	$0.00	$197.81	$197.81
Office Supplies	$449.49	$2,393.51	$2,393.51
Office Supply Charge	$85.75	$9,289.95	$9,289.95
Publications, Ref.Mat., Subscriptions	$2,974.00	$28,573.97	$28,573.97
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	**$3,992.83**	**$45,462.68**	**$45,462.68**
Equipment Purchase, Lease Maintenance	$0.00	$3,179.99	$3,179.99

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Computer hardware purchase	$2,439.40	$2,439.40	$2,439.40
Computer software purchase	$2,000.00	$5,355.05	$5,355.05
Equipment Maintenance	$396.90	$4,762.80	$4,762.80
Warranties	$0.00	$399.99	$399.99
31-Equipment subtotal	**$4,836.30**	**$16,137.23**	**$16,137.23**
Total Expenses	**$444,461.88**	**$5,177,263.48**	**$5,177,263.48**

01/12/10

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
FULL
Monthly Statement by CHA Requirements
2009 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
- subtotal	$0.00	$120.00	$120.00
11- subtotal	$412,508.37	$4,899,350.02	$4,899,350.02
12-Personnel Benefits subtotal	$0.00	$5,891.93	$5,891.93
21-Travel subtotal	$33.00	$12,219.73	$12,219.73
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	$8,759.97	$92,144.28	$92,144.28
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	$465.70	$1,562.70	$1,562.70
25-Other Services subtotal	$13,865.71	$104,374.91	$104,374.91
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	$3,992.83	$45,462.68	$45,462.68
31-Equipment subtotal	$4,836.30	$16,137.23	$16,137.23
Total Expenses	$444,461.88	$5,177,263.48	$5,177,263.48

01/12/10

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
FULL
Fund Balance Statement by CHA Requirements
December

Total Authorization		
2009		**$6,317,592.00**
Less Expenses for:		
January	2009	$369,312.20
February		$414,900.44
March		$428,850.49
April		$423,176.61
May		$427,630.32
June		$441,065.95
July		$446,736.49
August		$441,582.79
September		$443,992.76
October		$457,618.03
November		$437,935.52
December		$444,461.88
Total Expenses to Date:		**$5,177,263.48**
Unexpended authorization		**$1,140,328.52**

01/12/10

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
FULL
Monthly Statement by CHA Requirements
2009 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
- subtotal	$0.00	$120.00	$120.00
11- subtotal	$412,508.37	$4,899,350.02	$4,899,350.02
12-Personnel Benefits subtotal	$0.00	$5,891.93	$5,891.93
21-Travel subtotal	$33.00	$12,219.73	$12,219.73
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	$8,759.97	$92,144.28	$92,144.28
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	$465.70	$1,562.70	$1,562.70
25-Other Services subtotal	$13,865.71	$104,374.91	$104,374.91
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	$3,992.83	$45,462.68	$45,462.68
31-Equipment subtotal	$4,836.30	$16,137.23	$16,137.23
Total Expenses	$444,461.88	$5,177,263.48	$5,177,263.48

01/12/10

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
FULL
Fund Balance Statement by CHA Requirements
December

Total Authorization		
2009		**$6,317,592.00**
Less Expenses for:		
January	2009	$369,312.20
February		$414,900.44
March		$428,850.49
April		$423,176.61
May		$427,630.32
June		$441,065.95
July		$446,736.49
August		$441,582.79
September		$443,992.76
October		$457,618.03
November		$437,935.52
December		$444,461.88
Total Expenses to Date:		**$5,177,263.48**
Unexpended authorization		**$1,140,328.52**

01/12/10

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
FULL
Monthly Statement by CHA Requirements
2009 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Training Expense	$0.00	$120.00	$120.00
- subtotal	**$0.00**	**$120.00**	**$120.00**
Non Statutory Compensation	$412,508.37	$4,894,155.92	$4,894,155.92
Accrued Leave	$0.00	$5,194.10	$5,194.10
11- subtotal	**$412,508.37**	**$4,899,350.02**	**$4,899,350.02**
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$5,891.93	$5,891.93
12-Personnel Benefits subtotal	**$0.00**	**$5,891.93**	**$5,891.93**
Plane/Train	$0.00	$5,982.01	$5,982.01
Taxi, Parking, Tolls	$33.00	$167.00	$167.00
Travel Reimbursement	$0.00	$5,383.42	$5,383.42
Consultant Travel/Related Expenses	$0.00	$90.30	$90.30
Field Hearing Support costs	$0.00	$597.00	$597.00
21-Travel subtotal	**$33.00**	**$12,219.73**	**$12,219.73**
DC Telephone Equipment Charge	$248.00	$3,550.00	$3,550.00
DC Telephone Service Charge	$975.00	$10,672.50	$10,672.50
DC Telephone Tolls Charge	$7,536.97	$77,338.66	$77,338.66
Postage, Courier, Delivery, Box rental	$0.00	$583.12	$583.12
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	**$8,759.97**	**$92,144.28**	**$92,144.28**
Printing and Production	$459.30	$1,385.90	$1,385.90
Photographic Expenses Charge	$6.40	$176.80	$176.80
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	**$465.70**	**$1,562.70**	**$1,562.70**
Consultant Contracts	$6,666.66	$73,333.26	$73,333.26
Representational expenses	$0.00	$311.61	$311.61
Technology Service Contracts	$1,078.09	$12,937.08	$12,937.08
WEB DEVL HOSTNG EMAIL & RELSRV	$6,120.96	$17,792.96	$17,792.96
25-Other Services subtotal	**$13,865.71**	**$104,374.91**	**$104,374.91**
Bottled Water	$483.59	$5,007.44	$5,007.44
Food and Beverage	$0.00	$197.81	$197.81
Office Supplies	$449.49	$2,393.51	$2,393.51
Office Supply Charge	$85.75	$9,289.95	$9,289.95
Publications, Ref.Mat., Subscriptions	$2,974.00	$28,573.97	$28,573.97
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	**$3,992.83**	**$45,462.68**	**$45,462.68**
Equipment Purchase, Lease Maintenance	$0.00	$3,179.99	$3,179.99

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Computer hardware purchase	$2,439.40	$2,439.40	$2,439.40
Computer software purchase	$2,000.00	$5,355.05	$5,355.05
Equipment Maintenance	$396.90	$4,762.80	$4,762.80
Warranties	$0.00	$399.99	$399.99
31-Equipment subtotal	**$4,836.30**	**$16,137.23**	**$16,137.23**
Total Expenses	**$444,461.88**	**$5,177,263.48**	**$5,177,263.48**

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Lucas.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. FRANK D. LUCAS, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Mr. LUCAS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to satisfy the requirements of House Resolution 279.

As you just heard from Chairman Peterson, our committee has enjoyed a long history of bipartisanship, and we have continued this cooperation throughout the first session of the 111th Congress.

As we testified last year, the committee continues to oversee the implementation of the Farm Bill and monitor the effects of the economic downturn on rural America. I am encouraged by and support Chairman Peterson's interest in starting our traditional series of Farm Bill field hearings early in the implementation process. Given the challenges of living in rural America, it is often easier to take Congress to the countryside than to bring the country to the city, this city.

In addition to bipartisanship, the Ag Committee has a long history of fiscal responsibility. The travel proposed by Chairman Peterson will cost money, but it is my intention to work with Chairman Peterson and the members of the committee to ensure proper stewardship of taxpayer moneys.

Again, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for this opportunity to testify today.

[The statement of Mr. Lucas follows:]

Testimony of Agriculture Committee
Ranking Republican Frank Lucas
House Administration Hearing on Committee Budgets
January 27, 2010

Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren, and members of the committee, I am pleased to be here today to satisfy the requirements of House Resolution 279. As you just heard from Chairman Peterson, our committee has enjoyed a long history of bipartisanship, and we have continued that cooperation through the first session of the 111th Congress.

As we testified last year, the Committee continues to oversee the implementation of the Farm Bill and monitor the effects of the economic downturn on rural America. I am encouraged by and support Chairman Peterson's interest in starting our traditional series of farm bill field hearings early in the implementation process. Given the challenges of living in rural America, it's often easier to take Congress to the countryside than it is to bring the country to this city.

In addition to bipartisanship, the Agriculture Committee has a strong history of fiscal responsibility. The travel proposed by Chairman Peterson will cost money, but it is my intention to work with Chairman Peterson and the members of the committee to ensure proper stewardship of taxpayer money.

I thank the Chair and the Ranking Member for this opportunity to testify.

###

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you very much, Mr. Lucas. Mr. Harper and Mr. Lungren had to go over to Judiciary on a vote, so you get me and that is going to be it.

But I do have a question because staff had actually briefed us a little bit in that in your request a year ago, you indicated that it was going to take the resources that obviously you were requesting regarding the 2007 Farm Bill. Then on top of it we had the regulatory issue come up and of course that portion of regulatory reform that fell under your jurisdiction. Mr. Lucas has indicated obviously you will still be continuing some of that work. The budget at this point, Mr. Chairman, is adequate? You feel everything—right now obviously you did not spend all of the funds——

Mr. PETERSON. Right.

Mr. GONZALEZ [continuing]. But I think it is going to be a busy second session.

Mr. PETERSON. Yes, I think the budget is adequate. I believe that for the last two budgets we have come in about $700,000 underneath the budget. I think the cushion that we have there, if it stays where it was, then we are going to be fine. It depends on how many field hearings we have and those kind of costs. We are making some changes on our side on the staff level; beefing up a couple areas. I learned going through the financial derivatives process that we had one staffer covering commodities, derivatives, and crop insurance, and it was too much. Therefore, we are trying to bring in people to focus on those individual areas. So there may also be a little increase in staff.

We have to look at the crop insurance system. The Administration is doing a Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) right now with the crop insurance people. We still have to finish the regulatory reform and we just started on the farm bill. But I think the resources we have been given are adequate and we—as Mr. Lucas said, we are tight fisted. We are not going to spend any money that we don't have to, and we are going to continue on that path like we have in the past.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Lucas, anything you want to add?

Mr. LUCAS. I would just simply note, Mr. Chairman, in this series of Farm Bill field hearings we will be compelled in the coming year to go to a variety of places because agriculture in this country tends to grow commodities by regional area and it will be necessary to go to those regions to conduct those hearings to get that kind of input. So while we spent a great deal of time in this last year on things like derivatives, meeting here in the Nation's capital, when we do these field hearings we will be going to the countryside and there is just a lot of countryside out there.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you both. We appreciate your testimony and your report today.

Mr. PETERSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GONZALEZ. The committee will stand in recess until 1 o'clock when we will take up Veterans' Affairs use of funds. And we will stand in recess.

[Recess.]

The CHAIRMAN [presiding]. Good afternoon. I would like to call the Committee on House Administration to order. And I thank you

for being here. We appreciate your coming here from the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

As you know, we had our hearings earlier in the year and we agreed and you agreed, thankfully, to coming back to let us know just how you are making out after 1 year of funding and hopefully maybe let us know any problems if there were any problems or things you may need. Maybe we can be helpful; maybe we can't. And if there is anything that you may want to give back to some other committee it could be helpful, which we probably think that that might not happen. But we appreciate your being here. And I would ask Mr. Harper if he has any remarks at all. No opening remarks.

Thank you, and the floor is yours, Mr. Chairman.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. BOB FILNER, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. FILNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Harper. We are here together, Ranking Member Buyer and myself, in joint support of our budget.

We oversee the second largest Federal agency, employing over 260,000 people with a budget of over $108 billion. Our first session budget was $3.761 million-plus, and we spent 99.46 percent, better than Ivory soap, I think. Our December report shows we have spent $3.614 million-plus but we have outstanding budget obligations of 126,000-plus, which includes the salaries that will be given out January 1st and 2nd; so our ending balance will be $20,000-plus.

As you know, our committee splits the salary allotment by two-thirds to one-third and the minority controls its own payroll budget.

We held this year, Mr. Chairman, 54 hearings, two of which were field hearings, five roundtables, five joint hearings with the Senate, and 18 markups. And our 2009 allotment allowed us to pay for those field hearings and oversight trips. We were also able to begin participation in webcasting our hearings and upgrade and replace two servers, and our wish list for next year includes a new constituent management mail system.

I think we have been providing high quality oversight to ensure that veterans and their families and survivors have the highest quality of care and services. So I think we are using our money wisely and the veterans are getting their money's worth from our oversight. And I am prepared to respond to any of your questions.

[The statement of Mr. Filner follows:]

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN BOB FILNER
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 27, 2010

- Thank you Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren for this opportunity to appear before your committee to discuss the Committee on Veterans' Affairs budget authority for the First Session of the 111th Congress. Ranking Member Steve Buyer joins me here today in support of our budget.

- As you know, the Committee has oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA is the second largest federal agency, employing over 260,000 people with a budget authority of over $108 billion dollars.

- The VA Committee's total budget authority for the First Session of the 111th Congress was 3,761,006. The Committee spent 99.46% of our total budget. Our December monthly report shows that we have spent 3,614,088.82. I would like to add that we have outstanding obligations of $126,564.50 which includes salaries for January 1 and 2, and other purchases. Our ending balance is $20,352.68.

- Administratively, the Committee splits the salary allotment by two-thirds to one-third, with the Minority controlling their own payroll budget.

- The Committee on Veterans' Affairs held 54 hearings total this year, two of which were field hearings, five roundtables, five Joint Hearings with the Senate, and eighteen markups. Our 2009 allotment allowed us to pay for field hearings and oversight trips. We were also able to begin participation in webcasting our hearings and upgrade and replace two servers. Our wish list for 2010 includes a new constituent management mail system.

- The Committee's budget allows us to continue to provide the highest quality oversight to ensure veterans, family members and survivors, who access the VA, have the highest quality of care and services.

Closing:

- Mr. Chairman, we have always been a small Committee with a big responsibility. Let me assure you with great pride that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs gives the Congress and the veterans of this country their money's worth everyday

- I am happy to answer any questions you might have today.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Buyer.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. STEVE BUYER, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. BUYER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Harper. By way of opening, my staff informs me that your staff has been very responsive and very good to work with. So I appreciate that.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. BUYER. I support the request as outlined by Chairman Filner, and very briefly, I support it because I believe it does treat the minority fairly in all respects. It maintains the two-thirds/one-third division of personnel staffing and funding. It is structured similarly to past committee budgets and it has also been transparent. The majority shares numbers with us monthly, and the oversight travel has worked very well, meaning wherever there has been a request from the minority to travel anywhere in the country or U.S. Territories, the majority has been responsive and so has the VA to ensure that travel is done. So I am very appreciative of that.

Chairman Filner has shared all pertinent information with me and staff, and I appreciate his openness in how he has also developed his budget. As I said, he has agreed to monthly staff reviews of the committee's budget execution. I want to thank Bernie Dotson. The reason the chairman can tell you that they spent 99.46 percent is because of Bernie, sitting right here, doing a very, very good job. Is that right, Colonel?

Mr. SHORTER. That is right.

Mr. BUYER. Making sure that the dollar is followed. So when you have a budget of the size that the chairman has, he definitely doesn't want to go over. So I know he is equally appreciative that those dollars are watched and taken care of.

So I am satisfied this has been a reasonable request and it will provide the adequate resources for Committee on Veterans' Affairs to conduct its business on behalf of our Nation's veterans. I am pleased to support it and if you have any questions I will be more than happy to answer.

[The statement of Mr. Buyer follows:]

The CHAIRMAN. I have one question. What percent? Ninety-nine point?

Mr. FILNER. Four six.

The CHAIRMAN. Isn't Ivory soap 99.44 or something?

Mr. FILNER. Better than Ivory soap. We are clean as clean can be.

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

Mr. HARPER. I would just like to compliment you on the things that you have been doing, certainly in the way that the requests for the travel by minority, the way those all have been handled. I would just like to say I appreciate the job you all have been doing.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. BUYER. I would like you to know that under the Republican House Conference rules we still maintained our rotation of committee Chairs. So at the end of this year, it ends the 6 years of my leadership position on Veterans' Affairs. There is the potential—I

am not saying it's going to happen but we have to be aware as we do our budgeting—that I could have up to five members of my staff who are eligible for retirement. So what I have done here is when I look at my staff, it is a very senior staff. So for military experience there is 85.5 years; VSO experience, there is 12.5; veteran-related Hill experience there is 81.25. Total Hill experience, 115 years, and that is out of nine people. So I am—that means I have a lot of accrued leave. When you think about that, that is a lot of accrued leave; so we have to make sure we get that budgeted and taken care of and so if your staff could be very helpful to us—I don't know, is accrued leave going to be totally our——

The CHAIRMAN. It is now. After you put in your plug, it may not be, but right now it is. We will take that into consideration.

Mr. BUYER. I am just asking will you work with us?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, absolutely.

Mr. BUYER. We are going to try to maintain the budgets as we set out but there is something in front of me that we can't——

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, that somebody can even have their time and run their time out and leave you short. I understand. We will absolutely look at that and I will have our staff contact your staff and make sure you are not left shorthanded just because of a budgetary problem.

Mr. BUYER. Right. I just wanted to put you on notice.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. FILNER. Thank you.

Mr. BUYER. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Good afternoon and thank you for coming in here this afternoon. As you know, when we were here a year ago questioning your budget, we asked that everybody come back after a year and let us know how you are doing. We know we did cut some expenditures from you. We want to make sure that you are functioning properly and have everything you need to be able to function, and hopefully we can be helpful. We want to try to be. We don't know if we can or not but we will try. So we appreciate your being here. You can start right now if you like.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Mr. BERMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Lungren. I appreciate the opportunity to testify regarding the Committee on Foreign Affairs' use of funds during the first session of the 111th Congress. In that first session the committee was allocated a total budget of $9,243,406, which represented an increase of 4.78 percent over the previous year. Consistent with past committee practice, including when Republicans were in the majority, 12 percent of the total budget was set aside for administrative expenses for both the majority and minority offices. The remaining 88 percent was allocated to staff salaries, of which the majority received 66.6 percent and the minority 33.3 percent, carried out to the infinite decimal point.

Over the past year the majority has experienced some gaps in staffing as a result of staff leaving to work in the executive branch and the private sector, particularly among our senior staff. However, as of today the majority is almost fully staffed. We expect to

be 100 percent staffed in the near future and for the remainder of the 111th Congress.

As of January 21, 2010, the committee had a budget surplus of $655,668. That figure does not reflect approximately $32,000 of information technology equipment purchased for the minority and majority offices. After these payments are processed our final year surplus should be approximately $623,668.

Mr. Chairman, I believe we have been responsible stewards of taxpayer funds and we have treated the minority in a fair and balanced manner on matters relating to the committee budget. It has been an honor to work with my ranking member, Ms. Ros-Lehtinen, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

[The statement of Mr. Berman follows:]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Ms. Ros-Lehtinen.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Lungren, members of the committee. I would like to commend you for scheduling this hearing to assess the status of our committee funding resolution.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs has had a long and rich history of working in a bipartisan manner to advance our Nation's security agenda and the foreign policy priorities around the globe. Generally, this collaborative approach continued during the first session of this Congress with a generally equitable majority-minority distribution of the committee's funds and resources. Chairman Berman and I continue to make progress on a number of issues relating to minority rights, ranging from subcommittee minority spaces and equipment to consultation with, or reciprocal treatment of, the minority on the activities related to the Trans-Atlantic Legislators Dialogue, TLD, and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, NATO–PA.

With respect to TLD and NATO–PA, I would like to raise concerns about the expenses associated with these sessions and hope that, in light of the economic challenges facing our Nation, we would seek to be more cost effective in planning the logistics, considering the venues, and coordinating the agenda. Recently with the TLD session held in New York, I requested that our one GOP staff member stay overnight at a more economical hotel rather than at the Waldorf Astoria with the rest of the delegation. Regrettably, the majority refused to authorize payment for the less expensive option and I was actually forced to withdraw that staff member and have them provide support and advice to the members attending that conference via e-mail and telephone. It is my hope that this will amount to an isolated incident and that requests that I make pertaining to such minority matters would be honored.

In February of last year when we appeared before you, Chairman Berman and I presented a budget request aimed at ensuring the Committee on Foreign Affairs have adequate resources to exert proper oversight. I do not feel that we have done enough in this field. Our Nation and our constituents would be better served if we dedicated more of our time and resources to addressing the waste, fraud, and abuse or mismanagement of U.S. Government programs

that the committee authorizes. In particular, I believe that the committee should hold oversight hearings on reports issued by the GAO, addressing such serious matters as the provisions of nuclear assistance to Iran and Syria by the International Atomic Energy Agency and how U.S. contributions are facilitating such assistance and technology transfers. There are several such requests submitted by the minority that we are waiting feedback on.

Lastly, we should explore the possibility at the end of each calendar year of returning unused excess committee funds to the Treasury. Rather than wait until the end of the Congress and return in bulk to the Treasury we should consider returning these surplus funds on a yearly basis. We should highlight the fact that we have come in under budget and have planned effectively. We all have to do our part to address this rapidly growing public debt and annual budget deficit.

And I have other remarks for the record but that will about do it for my oral presentation.

[The statement of Ms. Ros-Lehtinen follows:]

Statement of the Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Ranking Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Before the Committee on House Administration
January 27, 2010

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Lungren, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you.

I would like to commend your for your scheduling this hearing to assess the status of the Committee Funding Resolution.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs has a long and rich tradition of working in a bipartisan manner to advance our nation's security interests and foreign policy priorities around the globe.

Generally, this collaborative approach continued during the First Session of this Congress, with a generally equitable majority/ minority distribution of the Committee's funds and resources.

Chairman Berman and I continue to make progress on a number of issues relating to Minority rights, ranging from Subcommittee Minority spaces and equipment, to consultation with or reciprocal treatment of the Minority on activities relating to the Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue (TLD) and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO-PA).

With respect to the TLD and NATO-PA, I would like to raise concerns about the expenses associated with these sessions and hope that, in light of the economic challenges facing our nation, we would seek to be more cost effective in planning the logistics, considering the venues, and coordinating the agenda.

Recently, with the TLD session held in New York, I requested that my staff stay overnight at a more economical hotel rather than at The Waldorf Astoria with the rest of the delegation.

Regrettably, the Majority refused to authorize payment for the less expensive option and I was forced to withdraw my staff and have them provide support and advice to Members via e-mails and telephone.

It is my hope this will amount to an isolated incident and that requests I make pertaining to such Minority matters would be honored.

In February of last year, when we appeared before you, Chairman Berman and I presented a budget request aimed at ensuring the Committee on Foreign Affairs adequate resources to exert proper oversight.

I do not feel we have done enough.

Our nation and our constituents would be well served if we dedicated more time and resources to addressing waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement of U.S. Government programs the Committee authorizes.

In particular, I believe the Committee should hold oversight hearings on reports issued by the Government Accountability Office addressing such serious matters as the provision of nuclear assistance to Iran and Syria by the International Atomic Energy Agency and how U.S. contributions are facilitating such assistance and technology transfers.

There are several such requests submitted by the Minority that we are awaiting feedback on.

Lastly, my distinguished colleagues, we should explore the possibility, at the end of each calendar year, of returning all unused excess Committee funds to the Treasury.

Rather than wait till the end of the Congress and after 2 years, return in bulk to the Treasury, we should consider returning these surplus funds on a yearly basis and apply toward paying down the debt.

We should highlight the fact that we have come in under budget and have planned effectively.

Normally, I might not have raised issues such as these at this level.

However, we must all do our part to address the rapidly-growing public debt and annual budget deficit.

Thank you for your time.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the lady.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, gentlemen.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Lungren, any questions?

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Berman, I hope you don't feel uncomfortable sitting under the watchful gaze of our former colleague, Mr. Thomas there with whom——

Mr. BERMAN. Well, now I feel a little uncomfortable.

Mr. LUNGREN [continuing].With whom you worked so closely over the years.

Mr. BERMAN. How many rooms does he have his portrait in?

Mr. LUNGREN. Not enough probably. You could ask Bill.

Mr. BERMAN. Could ask him.

Mr. LUNGREN. Yes. It reminds me when we were hanging the portrait of Mr. Sensenbrenner for one of his committees and Mr. Armey was there as the master of ceremonies, and after the member of the clergy had given the benediction Dick Armey said, Padre, you may think you have a close connection with God but now I would like to introduce someone who actually knows how to perform miracles, the artist who made Jim Sensenbrenner look this good. And I will say that artist was capable of miracles.

Chairman Berman, I just heard a little bit from Ms. Ros-Lehtinen about whatever happened in New York. It is my understanding both sides have worked to reconcile that and——

Mr. BERMAN. Well, we are going to be—I personally—neither I or Ileana were part of that Trans-Atlantic Dialogue. The one thing I can assure you is we will not be having any more Trans-Atlantic Dialogues in New York at the Waldorf Hotel while I am chairman. But——

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Chairman, if I could, I was not telling the chairman that he could not have the conference wherever he wishes, but if I choose to have my staffer stay elsewhere, we were turned down and that——

Mr. LUNGREN. Hopefully it wasn't a dangerous place you were sending your——

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. It was not, of course, as it was just a few blocks down from the Waldorf and did not reflect any cost as the reservation at the Waldorf was easily canceled. This would have been a savings. The GOP Member who attended the conference was upset. I was upset. And there was just no reason for that to happen.

Mr. BERMAN. I gather that the reason that decision was made, and it was unfortunate, was a group of rooms had been booked at the hotel; so they were obligated to pay those rooms. And did not want to incur the cost of paying for two hotel rooms for one staffer. But we are going to be more careful.

Mr. LUNGREN. We can make sure we work those things out.

Mr. BERMAN. By and large what I found so far we sometimes—when something becomes a problem the sooner the two of us learn about it and talk about it, the easier we are to work through it.

Mr. LUNGREN. I just wanted to make sure the two of you can talk those things out in the future.

Mr. BERMAN. I think we will. That was unfortunate.

Mr. LUNGREN. Let me ask this question. Last year I recall at this hearing you were talking about some additional obligations you had because of activities I think with the Helsinki Commission, if I am not mistaken, and there was a question about whether you would have enough funds to cover that. We did not grant you as we didn't grant—I don't think we granted any committee their full request. I just want to make sure you were able to handle that. You folks must have worked to ensure that you could take care of that within your budgets; is that correct?

Mr. BERMAN. Yes. I am trying to think now whether—we enacted the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and then separately continued the House Democracy Assistance Commission as well as provided some additional assistance because John Tanner was made Chairman of the North Atlantic Assembly. Doug Bereuter had been the previous American Member of Congress to have chaired it and that was done then, and we ended up working it through with the budget we were allotted even though it wasn't everything we asked for.

Mr. LUNGREN. I just wanted to make sure——

Mr. BERMAN. Yes. And both of those commissions, as well as the North Atlantic Assembly, are quite active.

Mr. LUNGREN. Excellent.

Mr. BERMAN. The Trans-Atlantic Dialogue is a different group than those three. That is really the U.S. To the European Parliament.

Mr. LUNGREN. And I just want the record to reflect again what you said in your statement that you folks did not bust your budget. You actually had money remaining and helped us out overall there with the overall legislative budget. So we thank you for that.

Mr. BERMAN. Thank you.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. No questions. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. No questions. Thank you both for coming.

Mr. BERMAN. Thank you.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. This hearing of the Committee on House Administration will be adjourned until after the votes, approximately 2 o'clock, 2:15. Thank you.

[Recess.]

The CHAIRMAN. I would like to call the Committee on House Administration back to order and thank the gentlemen for appearing in front of us today.

As you know, when we did our budget for the committees, we asked them to come back in a year, and thank you for doing that, telling us how you are getting along and just how we could be helpful, how you could be helpful, and how you are managing. Unfortunately, I know we had to cut some funding, but I know Transportation is doing well, it is extremely active, so I know you are getting along.

I don't really understand why this is happening, but I hear that it is Mr. Mica's birthday today. I thought you stopped celebrating. I know I did a while ago. In any case, happy birthday to you.

We will start with Chairman Oberstar.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. OBERSTAR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Mica and I both appreciate the opportunity to be with you, Mr. Brady and you, Mr. Lungren, and review where we are and account for our allocation of funding.

I sent a friend a birthday card recently with the connotation, "How old would you be if you didn't know how old you were?" It is fun to think about.

This committee allocated us $10,237,447 in your budget resolution. We have allocated $9,054,321. There are $108,170 in outstanding obligations yet to be paid from our 2010 funds. We take great pride in the work of this committee. I keep a report card in my pocket, not only of the results of the stimulus programs under our committee's jurisdiction, but also of the hearings, markups, bills and resolutions reported to the House, bills and resolutions passed by the House, and public laws and resolutions.

Not only are we the largest committee in the House or the Senate, we are the most active. We act on initiatives of Members of both sides of the aisle. Whatever their interests or concerns are, we respond to those.

In the first session of this Congress, we moved 65 bills and resolutions through full committee. Key elements of that number passed the House and were transmitted to the Senate. But among those are FAA authorization, $50 billion, the Senate hasn't acted on it 2 years in a row; authorization for the Coast Guard, restructuring, changes in the Coast Guard operation, new mandates for the Coast Guard Academy, minority outreach and inclusiveness. That is long overdue in the Coast Guard. We have that in this legislation. The Senate hasn't acted on it. That is a $10 billion authorization.

We have also moved legislation to improve Maritime workforce development, cruise vessel safety, water quality investment, assistance to State and local governments to reduce damage caused by natural hazards through the Predisaster Mitigation Program of FEMA.

We also moved legislation creating a National Women's History Museum. We moved the bill to reauthorize State revolving loan funds, to fund wastewater treatment facilities across the country. It hasn't been authorized in 15 years. We moved it in the last Congress and moved it again in the first session of this Congress. Unfortunately, the Senate hasn't acted on it. But we have done our portion.

Every 30 days we hold a hearing in the full committee on those portions of the stimulus that are under our committee's jurisdiction, and today we can track 760,000 direct jobs and jobs created in the supply chain under highway, transit, fixed guideway, aviation, wastewater treatment, Corps of Engineers, Federal public buildings, the Maritime Administration, shipbuilding that uses a lot of steel, and Coast Guard retrofit of bridges. We can account for 24,000 land miles of highway improvement throughout the Nation and 1,200 bridges built new or improved or expanded.

That has required a great deal of staff effort, 13 hearings that we have held so far on the program and another one to come next week. So I think we have well and effectively used, invested our fund. Most of the budget, nine-tenths of it, goes to staff. One-third of our allocation goes to the Republican side for their staff salary requirements.

We expect that in 2011, our expenses will be comparable to or just slightly more than 2010. There are staff vacancies we still need to fill on our Aviation Subcommittee, and our Public Buildings and Grounds and the Economic Development Subcommittee. So we will proceed with those and make every effort to keep ourselves in line with the budget allocated by the committee.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Oberstar follows:]

STATEMENT OF
THE HONORABLE JAMES L. OBERSTAR

BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
JANUARY 27, 2010

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Lungren, and Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Committee on House Administration to discuss the budget of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In the 111th Congress, we were provided $10,237,447 by the budget resolution. To date, we have allocated $9,054,321, and we know of $108,170 in outstanding obligations to be paid for out of our 2010 Funds.

I and my colleagues on the Committee take great pride in what we have accomplished with the funds that we have been provided. Our Committee, with 75 Members, is the largest Committee in Congress and has many important responsibilities. In the first session of the 111th Congress, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure moved 65 bills and resolutions through the full House. Key pieces of Committee legislation passed by the House and transmitted to the Senate include legislation that: reauthorizes the Federal Aviation Administration; strengthens airline safety and pilot training standards; authorizes

annual appropriations for the Coast Guard and end of year strength for military personnel, as well as addresses marine safety, Coast Guard management structure, acquisition reform, workforce development and cruise vessel safety; improves water quality investment; provides assistance to State and local governments to reduce damage caused by natural hazards through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program; limits and prevents human exposure to polluted coastal recreation waters; and creates a National Women's History Museum.

Other important legislation moved through the House by the Committee includes extensions of authorizations for Federal surface transportation and aviation programs into 2010. The Committee also developed a blueprint for a six-year, $500 billion surface transportation authorization bill. In addition, the Committee made significant contributions to H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act), H.R. 146, the Omnibus Land Management Act of 2009 and H.R. 2868, the Chemical and Water Security Act of 2009.

Oversight of the Recovery Act was and continues to be a high priority for the Committee. The Committee has held a total of 13 full Committee and subcommittee oversight hearings on the Recovery Act through the end of 2009, questioning 103 witnesses over a span of 54 hours. The Committee also collected

data from State and Federal agencies on the use of Recovery Act funds, published monthly reports on those figures, and notified States of their progress in distributing the funds.

Through the 110th Congress and now midway through the 111th Congress, the Committee has held a total of 257 hearings in just three years, compared to 143 in the comparable three-year period of the 108th and 109th Congresses. In addition, the Committee held 36 markups, and had 210 bills and resolutions pass the House, of which 133 became Public Laws or concurrent and House resolutions.

In the second session of the 111th Congress, we have an ambitious schedule ahead of us. We expect to pass a major multi-year authorization to upgrade our nation's surface transportation programs; the $286.3 billion surface transportation authorization bill enacted in 2005 expired in September 2009. We will also consider legislation to: reauthorize the Economic Development Administration, an agency that has been key in helping local communities through our current economic downturn; authorize major investments in our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure programs, as well as modify existing regional Clean Water programs; and reauthorize both the National Transportation Safety Board and the United States Coast Guard. We hope to complete work on major bills in aviation, coast guard and water

resources, which have passed the House and are awaiting Senate action and a conference.

To continue our record of productivity, we need to maintain our skilled and technically knowledgeable Committee staff. Most of our budget goes to fund this staff. In addition, our allocation provides for the Minority to receive 1/3 of the salary budget.

We anticipate that our expenses in 2011 will be greater than 2010. We have staff vacancies that need to be filled over the next few months. We will continue to monitor all Committee expenditures to ensure the proper use of taxpayer's money. You may be assured that we will take every opportunity to continue to save funds and return any unused funds back to the Treasury. In the future, we will make every effort to align future budget requests with actual Committee expenditures.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present our Committee's progress in the 111th Congress. I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

H. Res. Resolution: 2009 **Statement of expenses from 12/1/2009 to 12/31/2009**

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Report Done: **Tuesday, January 12, 2010**

Category	December 2009	Cumulative For Funding Resolution: 2009 12/31/2009
Staff Salaries	$875,445.10	$8,568,009.40
Overtime	$0.00	$0.00
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$10,431.49
Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
Equipment	$5,036.66	$82,567.71
Travel	$1,209.00	$61,600.28
Rent, Communications and Utilities	$7,556.96	$80,658.31
Printing and Reproduction	$0.00	$296.70
Other Services	$2,558.46	$33,042.75
Specialized Training	$0.00	$0.00
Representational Funds	$0.00	$0.00
Supplies and Materials	$22,369.90	$159,552.27
Grand Total	$914,176.08	$8,996,158.91

United States House of Representatives

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Fund Balance Statement as of 12/31/2009

All BOC codes

Resolution: 2009 Report Done: 1/12/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Less Expenses Total Authorization $10,237,447.00

Year Month	
2009 January	$621,979.80
2009 February	$702,117.84
2009 March	$714,026.26
2009 April	$728,837.24
2009 May	$721,900.46
2009 June	$745,533.04
2009 July	$764,059.40
2009 August	$719,151.29
2009 September	$759,623.35
2009 October	$748,685.88
2009 November	$856,068.27
2009 December	$914,176.08
Total Committee Expenses to Date	$8,996,158.91
Unexpended Authorization	$1,241,288.09

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

H. Res. Resolution: 2008 **Statement of expenses from 12/1/2009 to 12/31/2009**

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Report Done: **Tuesday, January 12, 2010**

Category	December 2009	Cumulative For Funding Resolution: 2008	12/31/2009
Staff Salaries	$0.00	$7,917,693.92	
Overtime	$0.00	$0.00	
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$15,684.86	
Consultants	$0.00	$0.00	
Equipment	$0.00	$88,847.79	
Travel	$0.00	$92,935.45	
Rent, Communications and Utilities	$0.00	$85,225.34	
Printing and Reproduction	$0.00	$155.00	
Other Services	$6.17	$30,544.54	
Specialized Training	$0.00	$0.00	
Representational Funds	$0.00	$1,472.65	
Supplies and Materials	$0.00	$285,249.38	
Grand Total	$6.17	$8,517,808.93	

United States House of Representatives

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Fund Balance Statement as of 12/31/2009

All BOC codes

Resolution: 2008 Report Done: 1/12/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Less Expenses Total Authorization $9,770,421.00

Year Month	
2008 January	$607,825.93
2008 February	$646,803.04
2008 March	$646,300.02
2008 April	$647,770.42
2008 May	$652,100.15
2008 June	$690,726.39
2008 July	$664,103.10
2008 August	$665,258.36
2008 September	$689,962.37
2008 October	$702,406.56
2008 November	$850,242.09
2008 December	$853,123.69
2009 January	$88,852.31
2009 February	$4,905.74
2009 March	$21,328.00
2009 April	$13,993.60
2009 May	$1,748.00
2009 June	$59,201.99
2009 July	$11,151.00
2009 December	$6.17
Total Committee Expenses to Date	$8,517,808.93
Unexpended Authorization	$1,252,612.07

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Birthday boy.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JOHN MICA, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. MICA. Thank you. I have been trying to avoid that, both in our T&I Committee this morning and throughout the halls of Congress, but I guess the word spread. I probably look a lot older today.

I will just say that the Chairman has expressed the workload of the committee. It is the biggest committee in Congress and probably has been one of the most productive and bipartisan in its activity.

On our side of the aisle, we have tried to be good stewards of taxpayers' dollars, return as much as we can. We expected probably even more activity on a major highway and transportation bill, and we may see some of that and we may have to ramp up a bit. But, again, strange things happen on the way down the track, so-to-speak, or down the highway, and we got sidetracked a bit on that.

On our side, we have held the positions at a minimum, although we do need to fill a couple. We haven't got the big PR team they had, the Republicans had in the last Congress, nor have we lawyered up as much as they did. I think we are doing fine without that, and hopefully we will have some funds that the Congress can utilize, particularly in this time of huge Federal deficits.

Thank you for your cooperation in supporting our work.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Mica follows:]

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, I thank both of you for appearing, and once again I happen to think these are good meetings, if for no other reason than to reflect on the fact that many committees are able to not only stay within their budget but actually return some money to our legislative function, and therefore to the Treasury, and in that way show that we don't follow the practice of spending every penny we have every year to make sure we don't get cut the next budget. So I appreciate what your committee has done.

It is my understanding that the allocation between the two committees is appropriate and has been followed, as was suggested last year. I was going through my notes and I recall the hearing last year, the Ranking Member was talking about some increased independence on travel issues. Has that been resolved? Do I recollect that correctly?

Mr. MICA. Let me say we have had some concerns about that, but if the table should turn in the election and I take the Chair position, I will have a separate allocation for the Minority for some independent travel. We don't have that right now.

Mr. LUNGREN. But you folks appear to be getting along.

Mr. MICA. Fine.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I don't know of any problem about travel funds.

Mr. LUNGREN. Mr. Mica is smiling more this year than last year in his appearance before us. That is a positive.

Mr. MICA. That is one reason we have less money, because I don't use any—or very little of the funds.

Mr. LUNGREN. Let me ask this about updating IT operations within your committee. Is that ongoing, and do you believe that your committee is getting the support it needs in the area of cybersecurity? That is, we have a unit here in the House that is trying to protect against cyberattacks from our individual offices and committees and so forth. One of the complaints we are having right now is the new limitation we have on BlackBerrys that arises out of our concern about cyberattacks.

I just wonder if you have any thoughts on whether or not we are giving you sufficient support in that arena?

Mr. OBERSTAR. Keven Sard is our committee cyber-guru, our technical expert, and he assures me that whatever support he has requested has been forthcoming from HIR, House Information Resources, and assures me that all security that is necessary for our computer system has been put in place.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank both of you. I appreciate it.

We are going to jump ahead of Global Warming and go to Science and Technology. We will take them ahead of Global Warming.

Thank you for appearing in front of us today. As we said to everyone else, we had hearings a year ago, with funding requested. We want to just double-check back and make sure everything is going okay and you have everything you need to be able to have a good, productive committee. So we appreciate hearing from you.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. BART GORDON, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. GORDON. Thank you, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren. We always look forward to this annual visit and we are glad to be back again. I will try to follow the Chairman's 2-minute rule here and just first say we certainly appreciate the allocation you gave us last year. We have tried to use it judiciously.

Last year we had a budget of slightly less than $7 million. We are projecting an overall surplus of $274,000. As most committees, most of our money goes to personnel, 93 percent. We have a little different situation in that we really need to have staff, most of them need to have a deep science kind of background. They are hard to find, they are expensive, the administration continues to poach them, or the private sector. So we are trying to grow some internally, but we appreciate your help with that.

In terms of the other categories—travel, supplies and equipment—we are estimating a surplus of $32,000 in travel, $34,000 in equipment. We are over our budget in supplies, but we are told that some of the items that we had considered as equipment actually fall under the category of supplies, so we hope that is going to level out.

We are going to continue our effort in terms of equipment to update in 2010 to replace our desktop computers. Every year that I have come here, I have told you that we hope—there is something called a Lectriever, a filing system that is well over 20 years old. I have told you each time we are going to try to replace that. I will tell you that again. And hopefully we will get that done this year.

Mr. Hall and I and our staffs work well together, and I think you can anticipate that continuing this coming year.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Gordon follows:]

Statement of
The Hon. Bart Gordon, Chairman
Committee on Science and Technology
before the
Committee on House Administration
January 27, 2010

I know this is a busy day for you as you hear from all the Committees regarding their 2009 budget, so I will try to be brief.

First of all, let me say how much I appreciated the budget allotment we were provided for 2009. I think we've used it judiciously, and I welcome the opportunity to discuss it with you.

Our total budget for the 111th Congress is $14,048,942, divided into $6,890,114 for 2009 and $7,158,828 for 2010. For 2009 we are currently projecting an overall surplus of approximately $274,000.

As is always the case, personnel costs account for the bulk of our budget. In 2009, we allocated almost 93% of our budget for personnel costs.

On the Majority side, we allow some room each year in our salary budget for lump sum bonuses and merit and COLA increases in an effort to reward good work and recruit and retain our highly-trained staff. We had a couple of vacancies that lingered for a few months during 2009, but they were filled at the end of the year. Using money we budgeted and the surplus accumulated during the two vacancies, I authorized lump sum bonuses for staff effective January 1 of this year. Following those payments and the salary expense of January 1 and 2, the Majority had a payroll surplus of approximately $9600.

The Minority receives one-third of the payroll budget, and they had a surplus of approximately $180,000, giving us a total surplus in the payroll category of approximately $190,000.

Other major budget categories are travel, supplies and equipment. While all our invoices for the year are not yet in, we estimate a surplus of $32,000 in travel and $34,000 in equipment. We're over our targeted budget for supplies, but I'm told some items we considered to be equipment actually fall into the accounting code for supplies.

As is often the case, we hoped to get more travel completed than we had time to accomplish. Staff and Members get caught up in the hectic legislative schedule, and we aren't always able to take as much time as we probably should to get out and see some of the programs and projects that we authorize and exercise oversight of.

As to equipment, we tried to buy everything that we had planned for while still leaving some room in the budget for last minute emergencies should there be a need to make an unplanned replacement purchase of equipment.

Going forward in 2010, we will continue and complete the replacement of all the desktop computers at the Committee as planned and will continue to replace copiers and printers as needed. The other large equipment purchase planned for 2010 is to replace the Lektriever filing system we have had for about 20 years.

We continue to seek qualified professional staff members in order to enhance our expertise and develop some redundancy in a few of our issue areas. People with the advanced scientific degrees

we look for often have many options for employment in addition to service on Capitol Hill. The Committee's current budget allocation for 2010 will allow us to compete for new staff while also retaining the staff of highly-degreed professionals we already have. I have requested an additional staff slot for the Committee which can be supported in the existing 2010 budget.

In closing, let me say that Ranking Member Hall and I continue to work well together as do our staff, and we look forward to a productive 2010.

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Science and Technology
Fund Balance Statement as of 12/31/2009
All BOC codes

Resolution: 279 Report Done: 1/12/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Less Expenses Total Authorization $6,890,114.00

Year Month	
2009 January	$424,954.70
2009 February	$471,831.21
2009 March	$491,800.14
2009 April	$520,099.81
2009 May	$500,471.42
2009 June	$508,699.74
2009 July	$540,372.43
2009 August	$520,392.95
2009 September	$522,992.58
2009 October	$675,748.29
2009 November	$546,212.66
2009 December	$561,316.53
Total Committee Expenses to Date	$6,284,892.46
Unexpended Authorization	$605,221.54

Committee on Science and Technology

H. Res. Resolution: 279 **Statement of expenses from 12/1/2009 to 12/31/2009**

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Report Done: Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Category	December 2009	Cumulative For Funding Resolution: 279 12/31/2009
Staff Salaries	$518,318.98	$6,014,946.81
Overtime	$0.00	$0.00
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$7,246.06
Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
Equipment	$4,447.37	$24,441.91
Travel	$1,923.43	$40,338.03
Rent, Communications and Utilities	$6,547.89	$78,743.51
Printing and Reproduction	$191.40	$1,498.75
Other Services	$5,290.43	$12,619.93
Specialized Training	$0.00	$0.00
Representational Funds	$0.00	$0.00
Supplies and Materials	$24,597.03	$105,057.46
Grand Total	$561,316.53	$6,284,892.46

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Science and Technology
Fund Balance Statement as of 12/31/2009
All BOC codes

Resolution: 202B Report Done: 1/13/2010

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Less Expenses Total Authorization $6,575,791.00

Year Month	
2008 January	$415,724.24
2008 February	$467,989.37
2008 March	$486,471.63
2008 April	$481,286.30
2008 May	$483,654.12
2008 June	$488,602.42
2008 July	$509,683.80
2008 August	$483,834.01
2008 September	$525,511.45
2008 October	$545,779.68
2008 November	$582,148.93
2008 December	$540,842.29
2009 January	$201,079.46
2009 February	$9,408.79
2009 March	$119,560.31
2009 April	$17,689.00
2009 May	$154.97
2009 June	($850.00)
2009 December	$6.17
Total Committee Expenses to Date	$6,358,576.94
Unexpended Authorization	$217,214.06

Committee on Science and Technology

H. Res. Resolution: 202B **Statement of expenses from 12/1/2009 to 12/31/2009**

Whole Committee - Funding Limit

Report Done: **Wednesday, January 13, 2010**

Category	December 2009	Cumulative For Funding Resolution: 202B 12/31/2009
Staff Salaries	$0.00	$5,880,919.42
Overtime	$0.00	$0.00
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$25,016.75
Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
Equipment	$0.00	$148,902.09
Travel	$0.00	$71,004.03
Rent, Communications and Utilities	$0.00	$73,517.42
Printing and Reproduction	$0.00	$13,447.35
Other Services	$6.17	$53,155.54
Specialized Training	$0.00	$0.00
Representational Funds	$0.00	$495.30
Supplies and Materials	$0.00	$92,119.04
Grand Total	$6.17	$6,358,576.94

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Hall.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. RALPH M. HALL, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. HALL. Mr. Chairman, members, I thank you. The Chairman has pretty well laid it out. I know the purpose of this meeting is to report on the budget and to ensure that we have received at least our allocation of one-third, and we have: one-third of the salary, one-third of the travel. Everything has been done.

Bart is one of the most fair men I have ever known in my life and worked with. Sometimes he likes to know how many. We have 15 GOP staffers and 5 GOP designees and 1 on maternity leave, for a total of 21 staffers. We have an excellent staff of individuals from a lot of backgrounds.

The Chairman always likes to recount the advanced degrees of the staffers. So far on the record, on the GOP staff we have three law degrees. I apologize for that.

Mr. GORDON. That doesn't count.

Mr. HALL. One has a doctorate and five have masters degrees. I graduated in a class of 38 and I graduated 38th, and I didn't know until 5 o'clock that afternoon that I was really going to graduate. I had to go across the street and borrow a coat to graduate in.

One time I made four F's and a D and my dad punished me for spending too much time on one subject. So I don't have a masters or a doctorate degree. I have a law degree from SMU.

The salary allocation is exactly two-thirds Majority and one-third Minority. They made sure to set aside a third of the travel budget, and if we fudged on that a little bit, we worked it out some way.

Finally, in terms of equipment and supplies, the Majority has always responded to our requests and we have up-to-date technology and equipment. You inquired about that.

Chairman Gordon probably would like to discuss his plans on upcoming legislative agenda. I know he is going to mention his desire to reauthorize the America Competes bill, as well as NASA. I applaud the Chairman for setting very ambitious goals. He worked on technology, engineering, math, STEM education. He is almost the father of that.

While overall supportive, our primary goal was to continue to ensure that the taxpayers' dollars are spent wisely and efficiently. And along with my Republican colleagues, we are going to continue to assess legislation that creates new government programs and offer amendments to ensure that Federal programs are effective and run in a transparent and efficient manner.

One thing I would like to say, whether it is on the record or off the record, the Chairman and I have had a very good working relationship. We have probably passed more beneficial legislation in numbers than any other committee, and it is because he is bipartisan. He has worked with us. I will miss working with him as he leaves the Hill for what I am sure is going to be fulfilling, next State over in Tennessee.

I always said if it hadn't been for Tennessee, there wouldn't be a Texas. I think Bart told me one time there wouldn't have been

a Texas anyway if there had been a back door in the Alamo. I don't agree with that. That was a heroic stand down there.

But he is a fine legislative authority, a fine family man, really a fine athlete, and he is a super friend. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Hall follows:]

The CHAIRMAN. Any questions, Mr. Lungren?

Mr. LUNGREN. No. I am just happy to be here at the Bart Gordon retirement. I have heard shorter eulogies.

I want to thank both of you. All we are attempting to do is to make sure your budgets are in accord with what you had thought they were when you came to us a year ago and that we have the one-third/two-thirds, and that we are doing what we need to do in the area of equipment for our committees, to make sure we can do the job that is necessary.

Again, I appreciate the fact that you are able to report that you didn't spend all your money.

Mr. HALL. I didn't know that.

Mr. LUNGREN. I know that. I was going to wait until you got out of the room. But this is kind of interesting, because there is always the criticism of government that, when it comes to the end of the year, they spend as much as they can to make sure they protect the budget for this year. But you have come forward, as a number of committees have come forward, and talked about how they didn't need to spend everything they had this last year, but yet they were able to do the job. So we appreciate that. I thank both of you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Chairman, do you want me to come up here?

The CHAIRMAN. We are trying to find out if Mr. Sensenbrenner is showing up. We were told he is on his way, so we will wait.

Mr. LUNGREN. Maybe Mr. Markey could tell us why the Celtics are superior to the 76ers?

Mr. MARKEY. Because the 76ers don't have Julius Erving, Wilt Chamberlain——

The CHAIRMAN. Could somebody shut their mics off?

Mr. LUNGREN. Or we could compare the Philadelphia Eagles to—no, I don't want to get in trouble there.

Mr. MARKEY. They actually had a superior team this year.

I could begin, if you want, and complete my testimony, because Mr. Sensenbrenner and I are in agreement on the recommendations we are going to make.

The CHAIRMAN. Certainly. Go ahead. You can begin.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. ED MARKEY, CHAIRMAN, SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much, and thank you, Ranking Member Lungren.

Last year, you asked me to appear in front of your committee to report on the finances of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. I am happy to return to you today to report on our progress.

The select committee had a 2009 committee authorization of $2,096,900. As of January 22nd, 2010, the committee had spent ap-

proximately $1,967,000. The committee has approximately $129,000 remaining at this time. Of this, a significant percentage has been spent in preparation for 2010 and is working through the finance system.

The select committee has always operated on a strict two-thirds Majority, one-third Minority split on funds as well as personnel slots. Fourteen slots are allocated to the Majority, seven to the Minority. I think Mr. Sensenbrenner will agree with me that we have worked amicably with the Minority on matters of committee administration.

The select committee's mission is to investigate, study, make findings and develop recommendations on policies, strategies, technologies and other innovations intended to reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign sources of energy, and achieve substantial permanent reductions in emissions and other activities that contribute to climate change and global warming.

To that end, the select committee held 14 hearings in 2009. While the select committee does not have legislative authority, we used these hearings to educate the Members and the House on important issues on energy independence and global warming.

We held hearings on topics ranging from international climate negotiations to smart grid technology; climate science to intellectual property; green jobs to agriculture and forestry. In addition, the staff took this information and developed concrete policy recommendations across a range of issue areas. These hearings and policy recommendations proved very important to the House as it worked its way through the American Clean Energy and Security Act.

Select committee members also serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ways and Means, the Committee on Natural Resources, the Agriculture Committee, and the Committee on Financial Services. As these committees considered the portions of the ACES legislation, they were able to utilize the findings of our hearings.

In addition to this work, the select committee used its power to conduct a 2-month investigation on more than a dozen fraudulent letters sent to several Members of Congress as part of a campaign run by the firm Bonner & Associates and contracted by the American Coalition For Clean Coal Electricity. This campaign was designed to influence Members of Congress, but ultimately the investigation concluded with a hearing featuring some of the central figures in the controversy, including victims of the fraud. The fraudulent letters were staged to appear as if they were sent by groups representing senior citizens, minorities and veterans.

Lastly, the select committee shared its views with the administration on a range of topics, including urging Secretary Chu to conduct an audit of Energy Star, urging the Obama administration to protect the Arctic from drilling threats, and calling for clean energy reform.

The select committee is working hard to continue our work on the climate and energy debates. We look forward to bringing witnesses to Washington from all over the country that can share with our members the threats posed by global warming and the potential for our green energy future.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Markey follows:]

Markey Statement to Committee on House Administration

Good afternoon Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren. Last year you asked me to reappear in front of your Committee to report on the finances of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, I am happy to return to you today to report on our progress.

The Select Committee had a 2009 committee authorization of 2 million, ninety six thousand and nine hundred dollars ($2,096,900). As of January 22, 2010, the Committee had spent one million, nine hundred and sixty seven thousand, three hundred fifty nine dollars ($1,967,359). The Committee has one hundred twenty nine thousand, five hundred and forty dollars remaining ($129,540). Of this, a significant percentage has been spent in preparation for 2010 and is working through the finance system.

The Select Committee has always operated on a strict 2/3 majority, 1/3 minority split on funds, as well as personnel slots. 14 slots are allocated to the majority, 7 to the minority. I think Mr. Sensenbrenner will agree with me that we have worked amicably with the Minority on matters of committee administration.

The Select Committee jurisdiction is to "investigate, study, make findings, and develop recommendations on policies, strategies, technologies and other innovations, intended to reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign sources of energy and achieve substantial and permanent reductions in emissions and other activities that contribute to climate change and global warming."

To that end, the Select Committee held 14 hearings in 2009. While the Select Committee does not have legislative authority, we use these hearings to educate the members and the House on important issues in energy independence and global warming. We held hearings on topics ranging from international climate negotiations to smart grid technology; climate science to intellectual property; green jobs to agriculture and forestry. In addition, the staff took this information and developed concrete policy recommendations across a range of issue areas.

These hearings and policy recommendations proved very important as the House worked its way through the American Clean Energy and Security Act. Select Committee Members also serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ways and Means Committee, Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture Committee and Committee on Financial Services. As these committees considered portions of ACES, they were able to utilize the findings of our hearings.

In addition to this work, the Select Committee used its power to investigate to conduct a two month investigation on more than a dozen fraudulent letters sent to several members of Congress as part of a campaign run by the firm, Bonner & Associates, and contracted by the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity. This campaign was designed to influence members of Congress on the House-passed Waxman-Markey climate and energy bill.

This investigation concluded with a hearing featuring some of the central figures in the controversy, including victims of the fraud. The fraudulent letters were staged to appear as if they were sent by groups representing senior citizens, minorities and veterans.

Lastly, The Select Committee shared its views with the administration on a range of topics including:

- Urging Secretary Chu to conduct an audit of energy star
- Urging Obama to protect the Arctic from drilling threats
- And calling for clean energy reform.

The Select Committee is working hard to continue our work on the climate and energy debate. We look forward to bringing witnesses to Washington from all over the country that can share with our members, the threats posed by global warming and the potential for our green energy future.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

General Expenditures		December	YTD
FM	Franked Mail	0	
11	Personnel Compensation	$ 189,127.17	$ 1,861,720.83
12	Transit Benefits	$ -	$ 2,561.73
21	Travel	$ 143.85	$ 1,677.33
23	Rent, Communication, Utilities	$ 2,970.62	26154.94
24	Printing and Reproduction	$ 529.35	$ 1,978.45
25	Other services	$ 9,614.98	$ 39,159.51
26	Supplies and Materials	$ 1,739.67	$ 8,537.25
31	Equipment Maintenance	$ 178.00	$ 2,136.00
		$ 204,303.64	$ 1,943,926.04

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

Fund Balance Statement as of 12/31/2009

Resolution:
Whole Committee- Funding Limit
Less expenses

Total Authorization: $2,096,900

2009- January	$132,152.28
2009- February	$152,515.96
2009- March	$164,843.07
2009- April	$159,562.03
2009- May	$158,520.18
2009- June	$159,808.41
2009- July	$159,806.6
2009- August	$157,522.79
2009- September	$151,689.6
2009- October	$149,503.27
2009- November	$193,539.31
2009- December	$204,303.64
Total Committee Expenses to Date	$ 1,943,926.04
Unexpended Authorization to Date	$ 152,973.96

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Sensenbrenner.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JAMES F. SENSENBRENNER, RANKING MEMBER, SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief. I disagree with practically everything that the Chairman and the Majority have done, but I do support the budget request that has been submitted by the select committee. It does provide the Minority adequate funds to vigorously dispute and tear apart everything that the Chairman wants to do, and that is all I can ask.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. I know the feeling, sir. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Sensenbrenner follows:]

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Lungren, any questions?

Mr. LUNGREN. Well, I am glad the two of you work so well together.

As I recall at the hearing we had last year, the anticipation was that the select committee would be phased out at the end of this Congress. Is that what we are still talking about?

Mr. MARKEY. There has been no change in that from the Speaker.

Mr. LUNGREN. I happen to think it is important for us to carry out our work that we have to. Various committees do fact-finding and so forth, and I know there was some controversy about Members attending the Copenhagen Summit. But I take it the two of you attended as members of this select committee; is that correct?

Mr. MARKEY. That is correct.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Yes, we did.

Mr. LUNGREN. And would the costs then have been incurred by the committee budget?

Mr. MARKEY. The costs were incurred by the State Department.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. This was the Speaker's delegation. It was not a committee codel.

Mr. LUNGREN. So there is no need for additional funds to cover that in the budget request that you made; is that correct?

Mr. MARKEY. No, not at all.

Mr. LUNGREN. I think that is all I have. They get along so well, Mr. Chairman, there is nothing more we have to ask.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. I thank both of you for coming. We appreciate it.

Thank you for coming here today. As you know, we asked when we had our funding hearings a year ago that people come back to find out just how your committee is faring with the cuts we had to make, and we are looking forward to whatever report you would like to report to us.

Mr. Chairman, you are on.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren. Mr. Lungren and I have been together already today, and I look forward to his input here.

I would like to thank you and all of the members of the committee to allow me and Ranking Member King—and in his absence, Mr. Olson will present the Minority position on Homeland Security.

Thank you for the 2009 funding authorization approved by this committee. The Committee on Homeland Security has been able to both be vigilant and thorough in our approach. This committee has conducted 51 hearings, considered 14 measures, and conducted 42 offsite Member-staff visits, field hearings, conferences, meetings and briefings all regarding measures to secure the homeland.

In 2009, the committee spent 92 percent of its allocated funds. Of that, 87 percent was on staff salaries alone. The committee had remaining approximately $680,000. We are here to request that the funds authorized for 2010 come to the amount of $9,058,134. These funds are necessary to pay salaries for the total of 75 staff, both Majority and Minority combined, and operating expenses for the full committee and its six subcommittees.

The 2010 allocation is approximately 3.9 percent over the 2009 allocation. Most of the increase will be used for merit pay and COLAs for staff, which I believe Representative King would agree they are the best and brightest on the Hill. In addition to providing for our staff, the allocation assures that they have access to reliable and cutting-edge equipment and technology, as well as updated security software.

Last year, the committee met with airport and transit authorities, first responders and border security officials. We conducted many site visits and attended relevant conferences. We anticipate that slightly more travel will occur this year, especially after the attempted bombing on Northwest Flight 253 from Amsterdam to Detroit, Michigan on this past Christmas Day.

It is this committee's intent, and we have already done so, to travel throughout the country ensuring the security of all our airports, train stations, borders and ports. As we all know, the nature of homeland security, after all, is a local matter affecting all of our communities in different ways. A one-size-fits-all approach to security simply will not do, and constant interaction and cooperation with each State and local community are essential to forming the best policy.

I know these are challenging times, and I appreciate the support this committee has shown us in the past, and I look forward to your support in the future.

Thank you for your time, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Thompson follows:]

Statement before
The Committee on House Administration

Chairman Bennie G. Thompson
Committee on Homeland Security
January 27, 2010

- Thank you, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren.
- I would like to thank you and all the Members of the Committee for allowing me and Ranking Member Peter King to testify on the funding status for the Committee on Homeland Security.
- Thanks to the 2009 funding authorization approved by this Committee, the Committee on Homeland Security has been able to be both vigilant and thorough in our approach. This Committee has conducted 51 hearings, considered 14 measures, and conducted 42 off-

site Member/ staff visits, field hearings conferences, meetings, and briefings all regarding measure to secure the homeland.

- In 2009, the Committee spent 92% of its allocated funds, of that 87% was on staff salaries alone. The Committee had remaining approximately $680,000.
- We are here to request that the funds authorized for 2010 at $9,058,134.
- These funds are necessary to pay salaries for a total of 75 staff, both Majority and Minority combined, and operating expenses for the Full Committee and its six subcommittees.
- The 2010 allocation is approximately 3.9% over the 2009 allocation.

- Most of this increase will be used for merit pay and COLAs for staff, which I believe Representative King would agree is the "best and brightest" on the Hill.
- In addition to providing for our staff, the allocation assures that they have access to reliable and cutting-edge equipment and technology, as well as updated security software.
- Last year, the Committee met with airport and transit authorities, first responders, and border security officials. We conducted many site visits and attended relevant conferences. We anticipate that slightly more travel will occur this year, especially after the attempted bombing on Northwest Flight 253 from Amsterdam to

Detroit, Michigan on this past Christmas day. It is this Committee's intent to travel throughout the Country ensuring the security of all our airports, train stations, borders, and ports.

- As we all know, the nature of homeland security, after all, is a local matter affecting all our communities in different ways.
- A one-size-fits-all approach to security simply will not do and constant interaction and cooperation with each state and local community is essential to forming the best policies.
- I know these are challenging times and appreciate the support this Committee has shown us in the past and look forward to your support in the future. Thank you for your time, Mr. Chairman.

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security

Fund Balance Statement by CHA Requirements
December

Total Authorization		
111thA - 2009		**$8,739,127.00**
Less Expenses for:		
November	9	$7,884.81
February	920	$1,090.00
January	2009	$522,120.83
February		$607,159.56
March		$738,045.67
April		$623,296.05
May		$772,259.50
June		$652,950.72
July		$599,973.72
August		$607,224.45
September		$620,565.52
October		$581,535.69
November		$750,267.44
December		$657,875.05
Total Expenses to Date:		**$7,742,249.01**
Unexpended authorization		**$996,877.99**

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security

Monthly Statement by CHA Requirements
111thA - 2009 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Non-Statutory Compensation	$598,083.74	$6,940,259.47	$6,940,259.47
11-Personnel Compensation subtotal	**$598,083.74**	**$6,940,259.47**	**$6,940,259.47**
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$18,201.75	$18,201.75
12-Benefits to Current Employees subtotal	**$0.00**	**$18,201.75**	**$18,201.75**
Commercial Transportation	$3,993.31	$53,105.43	$53,105.43
Lodging	$0.00	$593.86	$593.86
Taxi/Parking/Tolls	$133.00	$1,150.25	$1,150.25
Travel Subsistence	$2,153.50	$35,241.70	$35,241.70
Field Hearing Support Cost	$0.00	$2,580.00	$2,580.00
21-Travel subtotal	**$6,279.81**	**$92,671.24**	**$92,671.24**
Telecommunications Service and Equipment	$460.69	$5,098.23	$5,098.23
DC Telecommunication Equipment (TRANSFER)	$818.13	$5,826.15	$5,826.15
: Telecommunication Service (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$10,465.00	$10,465.00
⊃C Telecommunication Tolls (TRANSFER)	$9,048.21	$108,362.79	$108,362.79
HIR Graphics (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$140.00	$140.00
Postage/Courier/Box rental	$35.74	$374.76	$374.76
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	**$10,362.77**	**$130,266.93**	**$130,266.93**
Printing & Reproduction	$202.25	$5,322.25	$5,322.25
Photographic (TRANSFER)	$38.40	$395.80	$395.80
Advertisements	$0.00	$1,821.00	$1,821.00
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	**$240.65**	**$7,539.05**	**$7,539.05**
Agency Detailees	$0.00	$97,851.00	$97,851.00
Training	$0.00	$355.00	$355.00
Representational Expenses	$96.00	$179.70	$179.70
Committee Specialized Training	$375.00	$635.00	$635.00
Technology Service Contracts	$17,883.44	$167,395.44	$167,395.44
25-Other Services subtotal	**$18,354.44**	**$266,416.14**	**$266,416.14**
Bottled Water	$0.00	$5,232.07	$5,232.07
Food and Beverage	$71.70	$7,025.32	$7,025.32
aming (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$692.00	$692.00
.iabitation Expense	$0.00	$123.86	$123.86
Office Supplies (Outside)	$3,343.60	$38,677.45	$38,677.45
Office Supply (TRANSFER)	$985.73	$11,985.42	$11,985.42
Publications/Reference Material	$17,358.92	$126,981.48	$126,981.48

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	**$21,759.95**	**$190,717.60**	**$190,717.60**
ice Equipment Purchases less than $25,000	$0.00	$21,557.10	$21,557.10
Computer Hardware Purchase less than $25,000	$0.00	$28,825.75	$28,825.75
Computer Software Purchase less than $10,000	$0.00	$2,944.05	$2,944.05
Equipment & Software Maintenance	$2,793.69	$33,875.12	$33,875.12
31-Equipment subtotal	**$2,793.69**	**$87,202.02**	**$87,202.02**
Total Expenses	**$657,875.05**	**$7,733,274.20**	**$7,733,274.20**

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security

Fund Balance Statement by CHA Requirements
December

Total Authorization		
202B-2008		**$8,343,346.00**
Less Expenses for:		
October	2007	$1,069.89
January	2008	$504,226.44
February		$588,566.20
March		$567,235.91
April		$662,553.33
May		$587,772.42
June		$643,869.62
July		$643,534.41
August		$569,060.33
September		$629,210.93
October		$684,209.32
November		$719,740.41
December		$709,552.18
January	2009	$82,573.35
February		$60,482.72
March		$21,261.04
April		$45,455.00
May		$6,844.50
June		$1,128.87
July		$-820.10
September		$37,764.48
December		$1,460.58
Total Expenses to Date:		**$7,766,751.83**
Unexpended authorization		**$576,594.17**

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. King.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. PETER KING, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. KING. Thank you, Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren and members of the committee, for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Ranking Member King in support of funding for the Committee on Homeland Security in 2010.

As the Chairman stated, the committee on Homeland Security finished the first session of the 111th Congress with allotted funds remaining. We join him today in supporting the funding level of $9,058,134 for the second session, as previously approved by the Committee on House Administration.

The Committee on Homeland Security serves an important role in providing oversight for the Department of Homeland Security. In 2009 we saw an increase in terrorist plots against the homeland. In May, four men were arrested for attempting to bomb a synagogue in New York City and shoot down planes at a military base in Newberg, New York. In September, Najibullah Zazi had direct ties to senior al Queda leadership in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He was charged with conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction. And Husein Smadi was arrested for attempting to bomb a skyscraper in Dallas, Texas.

In November, U.S. Army Major Nidal Hasan murdered 13 military personnel during a terrorist attack at Fort Hood, Texas. It was later revealed that Major Hasan had e-mail exchanges with Yemen-based radical cleric Anwar al Awlaki.

Most recently, on Christmas Day, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab attempted to detonate a bomb on Northwest Airlines Flight 253 flying into Detroit, which would have killed nearly 300 people. This morning, the Committee on Homeland Security held a hearing on this nearly successful terrorist attack, the most serious in our country since September 11, 2001, and steps that are being taken to ensure that a similar attack does not happen again.

In the upcoming year, we are hopeful that our committee will also address important issues within its jurisdiction, including the terrorist shooting at Fort Hood, the administration's decision to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, the security implications of civilian trials of 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other terrorists in New York City, and the urgent need to strengthen our border security.

It is also imperative that the Committee on Homeland Security pass an authorization bill for the Department of Homeland Security to ensure the Department has the policy, guidance and resources it needs to fulfill its mission. The House should pass the authorization bill prior to House action on the Homeland Security appropriations bill for fiscal year 2011.

It is critical that the Speaker of the House take steps in 2010 to consolidate congressional oversight of the Department of Homeland Security. As you know, this was one of the key recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, yet it remains one of the only recommendations by the commission that has not been fully implemented.

Over 80 committees and subcommittees currently exercise oversight for the Department of Homeland Security. This untenable situation results in contradictory guidance provided to the Department on key policies and programs, imposition of burdensome workloads that divert limited resources, unnecessary detractions for senior Department officials, and jurisdictional battles among House committees that impede passage of key Homeland Security legislation.

Given the important role that the Committee on Homeland Security plays in overseeing the Department tasked with protecting our country from a terrorist attack and being better prepared for natural disasters, we request that the Committee on House Administration continue to support the previously authorized funding level for the second session of the 111th Congress.

I would like to highlight two key areas where we believe additional budgetary focus should be given in the coming year. The Minority members and staff need better and more reliable access to the SCIF, our secure office space. In 2008, Chairman Thompson committed to working with us to provide this access. But there are outstanding issues.

For example, on the days immediately following the Christmas bombing attempt on Flight 253, our staff was unable to access the committee's SCIF space and had to rely on the House Sergeant of Arms' SCIF in order to conduct oversight and communicate with the Intelligence Community. I hope that the 2010 budget will allow for greater Minority access.

The second issue I hope will be addressed this year with the approved budget is the scheduling of Minority-requested field hearings. We have had difficulty scheduling these field hearings, despite multiple field hearings held in districts of Democrat committee members, and we are concerned with the denial of requests and continued delays in scheduling others. We hope this imbalance will be addressed in the second session in the same bipartisan tradition the committee has operated under in the past.

In closing, we support the additional funding for the committee in 2010 and look forward to working with you and Chairman Thompson to accomplish these goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I welcome any questions you may have.

The Chairman. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. King follows:]

BENNIE G. THOMPSON, MISSISSIPPI
CHAIRMAN

PETER T. KING, NEW YORK
RANKING MEMBER

One Hundred Eleventh Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER PETER T. KING
House Committee on Homeland Security
Before the Committee on House Administration
Hearing on
Review of the Use of Committee Funds in the
Second Session of the 111th Congress
January 27, 2010

Thank you Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren, and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of funding for the Committee on Homeland Security in 2010.

As the Chairman stated, the Committee on Homeland Security finished the First Session of the 111th Congress with allotted funds remaining. I join him today in supporting the funding level of $9,058,134 million for the Second Session as previously approved by the Committee on House Administration.

The Committee on Homeland Security serves an important role in providing oversight for the Department of Homeland Security. In 2009 we saw an increase in terrorist plots against the homeland. In May, four men were arrested for attempting to bomb a synagogue in New York City and shoot down planes at a military base in Newburgh, New York. In September, Najibullah Zazi – who had direct ties to senior al Qaeda leadership in Pakistan and Afghanistan – was charged with conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction, and Hosam Smadi was arrested for attempting to bomb a skyscraper in Dallas. In November, U.S. Army Major Nidal Hasan murdered 13 military personnel during a terrorist attack at Fort Hood, Texas. It was later revealed that Major Hasan had email exchanges with Yemen-based radical cleric Anwar Alwaki.

Most recently on Christmas Day, Abdul Farouk Abdulmutallab attempted to detonate a bomb onboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253 flying into Detroit, which would have killed nearly 300 people. This morning, the Committee on Homeland Security held a hearing on this terrorist attack – the most serious in our country since September 11, 2001 – and steps that are being taken to ensure a similar attack does not happen again.

In the upcoming year, I am hopeful that our Committee will also address important issues within its jurisdiction, including the terrorist shooting at Fort Hood, the Administration's decision to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, the security implications of civilian trials of 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other terrorists in New York City, and the urgent need to strengthen border security.

It is also imperative that the Committee on Homeland Security pass an authorization bill for the Department of Homeland Security to ensure the Department has the policy guidance and resources it needs to fulfill its mission. The House should pass the authorization bill prior to House action on the homeland security appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2011.

It is critical that the Speaker of the House take steps in 2010 to consolidate congressional oversight of the Department of Homeland Security. As you know, this was one of the key recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, yet it remains one of the only recommendations by the Commission that has not been fully implemented. Over 80 committees and subcommittees currently exercise oversight for the Department of Homeland Security. This untenable situation results in contradictory guidance provided to the Department on key policies and programs, imposition of a burdensome workload that diverts limited resources, unnecessary distractions for senior departmental officials, and jurisdictional battles among House committees that impede passage of key homeland security legislation.

Given the important role the Committee on Homeland Security plays in overseeing the department tasked with protecting our country from a terrorist attack and being better prepared for natural disasters, I request that the Committee on House Administration continue to support the previously-authorized funding level for the Second Session of the 111th Congress.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I welcome any questions you may have.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. LUNGREN.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman THOMPSON, since we had the committee before our committee a year ago, we now have the CVC and we have a SCIF over there and so forth. Are we still having a problem with dealing with them over there about space for us?

Mr. THOMPSON. Well, we did. We have kind of resolved that part. As you know, I had from the Majority side of the budget that space that we have in the SCIF, and actually my budget ended up providing the equipment and other items for the SCIF. To my knowledge, all of the other issues associated with the SCIF have been resolved.

Mr. LUNGREN. Okay. I just understood there was some problem about us having sufficient workspace for both the Majority and Minority over there.

Mr. THOMPSON. I will ask staff. But at this point I know we have Majority staff there.

Mr. OLSON. If I could interject, I think our big problem is having 24–7 access to a SCIF. As we know, the most recent terrorist attack in our country happened on Christmas Day, and not a lot of people were here. It is important that we have access to a facility like that.

Mr. LUNGREN. If there is anything this committee can do, if there is a problem in terms of—I heard there was a computer room that could be used for a Minority secure room and so forth. If we need some authority from this committee on help from this committee, we will be happy to help with it, if that is a problem.

Mr. THOMPSON. I appreciate it, Mr. Lungren. We have now employed a full-time security person for the SCIF whose primary responsibility is the custody of the records as well as scheduling for the SCIF. The only thing I ask is that if the request is made, that it should come through the Chairman, like it has always, and we will be more than happy to accommodate the request.

Mr. LUNGREN. I just want to make sure there is no budget problem with that.

Mr. THOMPSON. No budget problem.

Mr. LUNGREN. One thing near and dear to my heart about field hearings, I don't want to make it personal, but I asked for a field hearing that we have had kind of a delay in getting any response on. I just wondered if we are going to be able to work some of these things out in terms of some field hearings that the Minority have requested.

Mr. THOMPSON. I think you will be very satisfied in the future.

Mr. LUNGREN. I thank the Chairman very much, and I thank both of you for appearing, and I am privileged to serve on that committee. I think we do good work. I think by and large, there is a bipartisan approach. I think there are some huge issues out there.

I would echo Pete's comments that I would wish that the rest of the Congress would understand the consolidation that might be appropriate of authority. I know, Mr. Chairman, that might put you in a difficult situation, to say anything on that. But I will just remark for the record that the 9/11 Commission did indicate as recently as this week that that is one shortcoming of the Congress, and they have not directed any criticism at the Homeland Security

Committee, but rather suggested there ought to be more consolidation of authority. I think they speak the truth.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Lungren, I agree 100 percent with you.

Mr. LUNGREN. I am not trying to get you in trouble on that.

Mr. THOMPSON. I got myself in trouble, because I raised it and tried to get that issue attended to, and I will continue to do likewise.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Lungren.

Also I want to thank the committee because, Mr. Chairman, we had a problem at the Philadelphia airport. You were prompt, extremely quick in helping us resolve the problem. We had a problem with security dogs, and you got right to the problem and told us what we needed to be doing to try to make sure our airport was secure and safe. It happened within 24 hours, and I do appreciate that. Thank you.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you for being here.

Good afternoon. Thank you for appearing in front of us today. As you know, we did our budgetary allowances on our committees last year. We asked if they would come back and let us know how you are getting along, how you are getting along with our cuts and making sure everything is getting along well. We appreciate both of you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member, for being here today.

Mr. Miller.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. GEORGE MILLER, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

Mr. MILLER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lungren.

The CHAIRMAN. Push that button, please. Push that button.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee at this midterm review here. I would like to thank Mr. Kline, the senior Republican, for his support of our committee budget, both when we presented it first and again this time.

The committee has been especially active during the first session of Congress. The committee's Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was the first bill signed by President Obama.

The committee also played a major role in crafting the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In the spring, President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, the first reauthorization of the National Corporation for Community Service, and the committee achieved House passage of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, providing $87 billion in savings and increased student aid and deficit reduction.

Lastly, the committee has been working, along with our colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee, to accomplish President Obama's health care reform agenda.

To finance these efforts, the committee has received $8,617,000 for its operational expenses for the first session of the 111th Congress. The amount allocated between the Majority and Minority has been, as designated by the House Administration Committee, the customary two-thirds and one-third split between the Majority

and the Minority. These divisions have allowed the Minority to adequately staff and prepare the Republican members of the committee for the actions of the committee, and they are, I believe, in compliance with the directive of this committee.

For the first session of this Congress, we presently estimate the committee has spent about $8,073,000, and would likely produce a balance of $544,000. The majority of that balance is largely due to the fact that several senior staffers of the committee have accepted employment with the Obama administration.

Two of our staffers were confirmed by the Senate for assistant secretary positions. One was appointed the acting assistant secretary, and yet another accepted a chief of staff position for a senior official at the Department of Education. These senior staffs had salaries on the higher spectrum of the salary scale compared to other staff. This left us with a higher balance for 2009 than initially projected.

As the committee continues its busy workload, we are scheduled to receive $8,953,000 for the second session. I believe that amount is appropriate, given the anticipated legislative activity for the committee in 2010.

We are in the process of hiring additional staff and will utilize nearly all of our 52 Majority staff slots to complete what will continue to be a packed legislative calendar. The committee will be working on the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, with the Ways and Means Committee jointly on pensions, and we have met on a bipartisan basis with the Secretary of Education to discuss the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. So this year will also be busy in this session of the Congress.

Thank you. I will be happy to answer any questions.

The Chairman. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Miller follows:]

Statement of
CHAIRMAN GEORGE MILLER
Committee on Education and Labor
Before the Committee on House Administration
Hearing on "Review of the Use of Committee Funds in the First Session of the 111th Congress"

January 27, 2010

Chairman Brady and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before this Committee to review the funding appropriated to the Committee on Education and Labor for the 111th Congress.

I would also like to thank Mr. Kline, the Senior Republican Member, for his support of the Committee budget.

The Committee has been especially active during the first session of this Congress. The Committee's Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was the first bill signed by President Obama. The Committee also played a major role in crafting the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In the spring, President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, the first reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Committee achieved House passage of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, producing $87 billion in taxpayer's savings for increased student aid and deficit reduction. Lastly, the Committee has been working, along with our colleagues on the Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees to accomplish President's Obama's Health Care Reform Agenda.

To finance these efforts, the Committee received $8,617,490.00 for its operational expenses for the first session of the 111th Congress. The amount is allocated between the Majority and the Minority through the customary 2/3rds-1/3rd split. These divisions allow for the minority to adequately staff and prepare the Republican Members of the Committee. The funding received by the Committee was spent in compliance with the rules of the House and this Committee.

For the first session of this Congress, we presently estimate that the Committee has spent $8,073,768. This will likely produce a balance of $544,000. The majority of this balance is largely due to several senior staffers of the Committee accepting employment with the Obama Administration. Two of our staff were confirmed by the Senate for Assistant Secretary Positions, one was appointed as an acting Assistant Secretary and yet another accepted a chief of staff position for a senior official at the Department of Education. These senior staffers had salaries that were on the high spectrum of the salary scale compared to other staff. This left us with a higher balance for 2009 than initially projected.

As the Committee continues its busy workload in this Congress, we are scheduled to receive $8,953,572 for the 2nd session. I believe this amount is appropriate given the anticipated legislative activity of the Committee in 2010. We are in the process of hiring additional staff and will utilize nearly all of our 52 Majority staff slots to complete what will continue to be a packed legislative calendar in 2010. Among the items the Committee will likely address this year include: Continued work on the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, additional work with the Ways and Means Committee on pension issues, Elementary and Secondary Education reauthorization, and review of our child nutrition programs.

The funding provided for the Committee allows it to carry out its important oversight and legislative responsibilities. As I stated earlier, I believe our schedule allocation for the 2nd session of this Congress adequately allows us to accomplish these duties. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I will be pleased to respond to any questions.

Committee on Education and Labor

Fund Balance Statement by Paid Date
December

Total Authorization		
111-1		**$8,617,490.00**
Less Expenses for:		
January	2009	$554,240.49
February		$605,205.58
March		$616,397.40
April		$610,380.72
May		$613,026.59
June		$602,655.72
July		$623,798.53
August		$685,049.07
September		$662,689.61
October		$685,550.31
November		$711,400.04
December		$778,373.55
Total Expenses to Date:		**$7,748,767.61**
Unexpended authorization		**$868,722.39**

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Education and Labor

Monthly Statement by Paid Date
111-1 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
11-Personnel Compensation subtotal subtotal	$676,413.46	$7,261,649.25	$7,261,649.25
12-Personnel Benefits subtotal	$0.00	$12,503.21	$12,503.21
21-Travel subtotal	$1,408.80	$26,534.03	$26,534.03
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	$14,619.75	$107,872.59	$107,872.59
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	$65.40	$2,642.62	$2,642.62
25-Other Services subtotal	$2,558.46	$20,928.96	$20,928.96
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	$20,512.83	$132,912.64	$132,912.64
31-Equipment subtotal	$62,794.85	$183,724.31	$183,724.31
Total Expenses	$778,373.55	$7,748,767.61	$7,748,767.61

Committee on Education and Labor

Fund Balance Statement by Paid Date
December

Total Authorization		
110-2		**$8,224,365.00**
Less Expenses for:		
January	2008	$531,143.58
February		$591,680.27
March		$613,637.84
April		$638,783.32
May		$600,542.96
June		$605,506.89
July		$588,574.31
August		$585,361.28
September		$651,656.10
October		$680,938.57
November		$697,900.28
December		$760,142.73
January	2009	$169,004.53
February		$12,830.04
March		$23,719.79
April		$20,694.76
May		$32,187.74
June		$1,356.53
July		$2,484.00
December		$335.25
Total Expenses to Date:		**$7,808,480.77**
Unexpended authorization		**$415,884.23**

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Education and Labor

Monthly Statement by Paid Date
110-2 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
11-Personnel Compensation subtotal subtotal	$329.08	$62,361.12	$7,146,866.86
11.1-Personnel Compensation subtotal subtotal	$0.00	$0.00	$12,760.41
12-Personnel Benefits subtotal	$0.00	$-3,353.92	$23,353.22
21-Travel subtotal	$0.00	$837.00	$25,713.73
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	$0.00	$12,725.66	$106,885.95
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	$0.00	$707.40	$4,091.25
25-Other Services subtotal	$6.17	$4,039.24	$94,457.91
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	$0.00	$43,613.22	$179,446.28
31-Equipment subtotal	$0.00	$141,682.92	$214,905.16
Total Expenses	$335.25	$262,612.64	$7,808,480.77

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Kline.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JOHN KLINE, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

Mr. KLINE. Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren, thanks for the opportunity to testify today as part of your review of the Education and Labor Committee funding for the first session of the 111th Congress. As you know, in June of last year I became the Ranking Member on the committee, and I am grateful to serve in that capacity and to work with my colleagues on that committee, including our Chairman, Mr. Miller.

Chairman Miller has continued to provide the Minority staff with autonomy over our allotted share of the committee funding, and I am grateful for that. As the standard procedure, we are allotted one-third of the committee's annual funding. In 2009, the Minority received $2,734,363. According to our records, we spent $2,519,503.73, with additional 2009 obligations totaling $117,666. These expenditures will leave us with a year-end balance of $97,193.18. Our balance reflects the work of the committee throughout the first session of this Congress.

One concern I would like to raise before the committee today is in regards to the Minority's ability to properly track our funding outlays and obligations in real time. Currently the Majority has sole access to the financial report software that provides up-to-the-minute information about the committee's funding balance.

To expand our ability to track the most current data, we would like to work with Chairman Miller and his staff to gain access to this type of real-time financial data software. We would be requesting access solely to the Minority's account information in order to monitor our expenses and obligations in real time. This data would be an important asset to the Minority staff.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today. I appreciate your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Kline follows:]

Testimony of Rep. John Kline (R-MN)
Senior Republican, U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor
Committee on House Administration Hearing on the "Review of the Use of Committee Funds in the First Session of the 111th Congress"
January 27, 2010

Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today as part of your review of Education and Labor Committee funding for the first session of the 111th Congress. As you know, in June of last year I became the Senior Republican member on the committee, and I am grateful to serve in that capacity and to work with my colleagues on the committee including our Chairman, Mr. Miller.

Chairman Miller has continued to provide the Minority staff with autonomy over our allotted share of committee funding. As is standard procedure, we are allocated one-third of the committee's annual funding.

In 2009, the Minority received $2,734,363.00. According to our records, we have spent $2,519,503.73 with additional 2009 obligations totaling $117,666.09. These expenditures will leave us with a year-end balance of $97,193.18. Our balance reflects the work of the committee throughout the first session of this Congress.

One concern I would like to raise before the Committee today is in regards to the Minority's ability to properly track our funding outlays and obligations in real time. Currently, the Majority has sole access to the financial report software that provides up-to-the-minute information about the committee's funding balance.

To expand our ability to track the most current data, we would like to work with Chairman Miller and his staff to gain access to this type of real time financial data software. We would be requesting access solely to the Minority's account information in order to monitor our expenses and obligations. This data would be an important asset to the Minority staff.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today. I appreciate your time and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. I guess the only thing I would ask, is there any problem with having the Minority have this ability to track their funding? Is that a problem at all?

Mr. MILLER. I would say at this point that I have only heard about this for the first time. I think yesterday the staff mentioned there might be a discussion of this. I don't know. I haven't had any conversations with Mr. Kline. I don't know if the staffs have or not.

As I understand it, under the current procedures I think on all committees, they submit their expenses and we pay those, and that is how it is done. I don't know what information——

Mr. LUNGREN. Then the committee reports to us once a month and we actually make that information available on our Web site.

Mr. MILLER. I don't know what information would be available that is not available today. But we haven't had that discussion, so that is ignorance on my part as to what that might be.

Mr. KLINE. We would like to just be able to track it in real time with payables and receivables and be able to monitor the progress. Currently, if we wait until reports come out at the end of the month which we get to look at, that is very useful. Those are reports that are shared and you get to see. The Majority, of course, gets to track this in real time, and they track Majority and Minority expenditures, as I understand it, in real time. We are not looking for access to the Majority, but we would like to be able to have software to help the staff manage our spending.

Mr. LUNGREN. So your purpose is to only make sure that you are watching your money during the month, rather than just finding out at the end of the month?

Mr. KLINE. Exactly. And having software to help us do that.

Mr. LUNGREN. Okay, I understand.

Mr. MILLER. I will have to sort it out.

Mr. LUNGREN. I was trying to figure out what it was, and it sounds like Mr. Kline is just saying he would like to have an ability to see what we spend within the month rather than just wait to the end of the month, if we could help with tracking. It seems to me that is something the two of you can work out.

Mr. MILLER. We will figure it out.

Mr. LUNGREN. I appreciate the fact that Mr. Kline was very nice not to make any comments about his position on the legislation you cited in your statement.

Mr. MILLER. His strong, strong support.

Mr. KLINE. George.

Mr. MILLER. For the alternatives.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you for your presentations. I think this is part of our transparency, just to make sure the public sees we are holding ourselves accountable and that we are watching where the dollars are spent. I appreciate it very much. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Thank you for appearing.

Thank you for appearing here today. As you know, we asked everybody to come back after 1 year and let us know how you were doing with the cuts that were made. You didn't need any. You didn't ask for any extras. But just to find out how the committee is doing and how you figure to do for the next year.

Mr. Ryan will not be here, he just couldn't get here today, so you have the whole budget in your hands, sir.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JOHN SPRATT, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Mr. SPRATT. Okay. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lungren, thank you both for the chance to testify before this committee regarding the Budget Committee's funding level for the next fiscal year.

When Congressman Ryan and I appeared before this committee 1 year ago, we asked for a funding level for 2009 and for 2010 that was frozen at the same level that we had received for 2008. The committee funding resolution provided us with the requested budgetary freeze.

On both sides of the aisle, we at the Budget Committee have prided ourselves on spending carefully the funds that we have been provided with. As a result, I am pleased that the Budget Committee can report that we have not spent all of the funds that the funding resolution allowed for the first session of the 111th Congress.

A portion of these unused resources reflect some funds that were built into our base budget as part of the funding process for the 110th Congress. At the beginning of the 110th Congress, we also requested a freeze for 2007 and 2008 to keep funding at the same level that the Budget Committee had received not just for 2006, but for 2004 and 2005 as well. As things turned out, the funding resolution for the 110th Congress did not freeze the Budget Committee's level, but provided us with an increase of about 4 percent. Those funds have been carried forward into our budget for the 111th Congress.

The largest area where our spending needs have been lower than anticipated for the first session of the 111th Congress is in the area of personnel, especially on the Majority side. We have experienced some staff turnover, either as the direct or indirect result of jobs opening up in the administration.

In some cases we have been stretching ourselves thin with staff resources doing more or less and in some cases doing more with less, and in some cases we may undertake additional hiring in the second session of the 111th Congress.

We hoped, for example, to hire a policy director in the first session of the 111th Congress, but we have not yet found the person we want to fill that particular position.

On equipment costs, for example, we have also tried to be frugal. Instead of purchasing a new $25,000 copier to replace the old one, we chose to repair the old one at a much lower cost. I didn't know that until I read that myself. My experience with the old copy machines is that they will drive you up the wall. But in any event, we have withheld that money and tried to repair the old one at a much lower cost.

The problem is because some of our computer equipment, notably monitors, is old and out of warranty, it will be cheaper this year for us to replace rather than repair the ones that break.

Regardless of which party has been in the majority, the Budget Committee has always fostered a collegial bipartisan relationship on the issue of the committee's budget. For all—not the House

budget but the committee's budget. For all equipment and other nonpersonal expenses we handle funding for the majority and minority out of a common fund, and both the majority and minority receive upgrades on an equal basis in terms of timing and quality. For personnel costs the majority and minority have long maintained an arrangement wherein the minority fully controls one-third of the total budget for personnel and one-third of the available staff slots allocated to us. I believe that Mr. Ryan's testimony will affirm that our colleagues in the minority found this to be a workable, equitable, and fair arrangement.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lungren, that is the scope of my testimony. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

[The statement of Mr. Spratt follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

January 27, 2010

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Congressman Lungren, for the chance to testify before this Committee regarding the Budget Committee's funding.

When Congressman Ryan and I appeared before this Committee a year ago, we asked for a funding level for 2009 and for 2010 that was frozen at the same level that we had received for 2008. The committee funding resolution provided us with the requested budgetary freeze.

On both sides of the aisle, we at the Budget Committee have prided ourselves on spending carefully the funds that we have been provided with. As a result, I am pleased that the Budget Committee can report that we have not spent all of the funds that the funding resolution allowed for the first session of the 111th Congress.

A portion of these unused resources reflect some funds that were built into our base budget as part of the funding process for the 110th Congress. At the beginning of the 110th Congress, we also requested a freeze for 2007 and 2008 to keep funding at the same level that the Budget Committee had received not just for 2006, but for 2004 and 2005, as well. As things turned out, the funding resolution for the 110th Congress did not freeze the Budget Committee's level, but provided us with an increase of about 4 percent. Those funds have been carried forward into our budget for the 111th Congress.

The largest area where our spending needs have been lower than anticipated for the first session of the 111th Congress is in the area of personnel, especially on the Majority side. We have experienced some staff turnover, either as the direct or indirect result of jobs opening up in the Administration. In some cases, we have been stretching our existing staff resources to do more with less, and in some cases we may undertake additional hiring in the second session of the 111th Congress. We had hoped, for example, to hire a Policy Director in the first session of the 111th Congress, but have not yet filled that position.

On equipment costs, we have also tried to be frugal. For example, instead of purchasing a new $25,000 copier to replace an old one, we chose to repair the old one at a much lower cost. But the problem is that because some of our computer equipment, notably monitors, is old and out of warranty, it will be cheaper this year for us to replace rather than repair the ones that break.

Regardless of which party has been in the majority, the Budget Committee has always fostered a collegial bipartisan relationship on the issue of the Committee's budget. For all equipment and other non-personnel expenses, we handle funding for the majority and minority out of a common fund, and both majority and minority receive upgrades on an equal basis in terms of timing and quality. For personnel costs, the majority and minority have long maintained an arrangement wherein the minority fully controls one third of the total budget for personnel, and one third of the available staff slots. I believe that Mr. Ryan's testimony affirms that our colleagues in the minority find this to be an equitable arrangement.

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on the Budget

Fund Balance Statement by Paid Date
December

Total Authorization		
111-1		**$6,350,721.00**
Less Expenses for:		
January	2009	$347,958.60
February		$418,749.51
March		$416,411.89
April		$434,202.99
May		$428,876.49
June		$403,348.98
July		$412,860.75
August		$398,466.71
September		$433,122.00
October		$419,736.64
November		$429,523.67
December		$417,169.27
Total Expenses to Date:		**$4,960,427.50**
Unexpended authorization		**$1,390,293.50**

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Budget

Monthly Statement by Paid Date
111-1 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Non-Statutory Compensation	$407,953.95	$4,685,016.62	$4,685,016.62
Accrued Leave	$0.00	$4,888.89	$4,888.89
11-Personnel Compensation subtotal	**$407,953.95**	**$4,689,905.51**	**$4,689,905.51**
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$6,279.96	$6,279.96
12-Personnel Benefits subtotal	**$0.00**	**$6,279.96**	**$6,279.96**
Commercial Transportation	$0.00	$499.29	$499.29
Meals	$0.00	$8.92	$8.92
Private Auto Mileage	$0.00	$109.41	$109.41
Taxi/Parking/Tolls	$18.00	$565.10	$565.10
21-Travel subtotal	**$18.00**	**$1,182.72**	**$1,182.72**
Telecommunications Service and Equipment	$104.99	$1,754.44	$1,754.44
DC Telecommunication Equipment (TRANSFER)	$244.00	$2,992.00	$2,992.00
DC Telecommunication Service (TRANSFER)	$652.50	$7,177.50	$7,177.50
DC Telecommunication Tolls (TRANSFER)	$2,123.87	$28,377.53	$28,377.53
HIR Graphics (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$39.00	$39.00
Postage/Courier/Box rental	$0.00	$100.45	$100.45
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	**$3,125.36**	**$40,440.92**	**$40,440.92**
Printing & Reproduction	$0.00	$387.20	$387.20
Photographic (TRANSFER)	$43.00	$70.90	$70.90
Advertisements	$0.00	$667.00	$667.00
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	**$43.00**	**$1,125.10**	**$1,125.10**
Training	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Web Development, Hosting, Email, and Related Services	$2,558.44	$7,820.43	$7,820.43
25-Other Services subtotal	**$2,558.44**	**$7,820.43**	**$7,820.43**
Bottled Water	$0.00	$4,689.02	$4,689.02
Food and Beverage	$0.00	$1,494.12	$1,494.12
Office Supplies (Outside)	$0.00	$22,174.27	$22,174.27
Office Supply (TRANSFER)	$313.85	$7,545.34	$7,545.34
Publications/Reference Material	$33.10	$113,143.43	$113,143.43
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	**$346.95**	**$149,046.18**	**$149,046.18**
Coomputer Hardware Purchase less than $25,000	$0.00	$25,200.10	$25,200.10
Equipment & Software Maintenance	$3,123.57	$38,438.58	$38,438.58
Warranties	$0.00	$988.00	$988.00

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
31-Equipment subtotal	$3,123.57	$64,626.68	$64,626.68
Total Expenses	$417,169.27	$4,960,427.50	$4,960,427.50

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on the Budget

Fund Balance Statement by Paid Date
December

Total Authorization		
110-2		**$6,350,721.00**
Less Expenses for:		
January	2008	$352,295.18
February		$378,757.38
March		$391,151.17
April		$385,027.43
May		$368,351.40
June		$403,055.15
July		$377,042.59
August		$401,724.66
September		$378,106.94
October		$371,312.67
November		$378,515.34
December		$423,782.25
January	2009	$55,653.78
February		$2,001.24
March		$11,432.07
April		$32,572.44
July		$88.00
August		$-10.33
December		$6.16
Total Expenses to Date:		**$4,710,865.52**
Unexpended authorization		**$1,639,855.48**

01/15/10

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Budget

Monthly Statement by Paid Date
110-2 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Non-Statutory Compensation	$0.00	$27,823.65	$4,341,802.51
Accrued Leave	$0.00	$0.00	$5,152.78
11-Personnel Compensation subtotal	**$0.00**	**$27,823.65**	**$4,346,955.29**
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$-391.76	$13,952.02
12-Personnel Benefits subtotal	**$0.00**	**$-391.76**	**$13,952.02**
Commercial Transportation	$0.00	$0.00	$458.48
Taxi/Parking/Tolls	$0.00	$0.00	$388.60
Travel Subsistence	$0.00	$0.00	$12.67
21-Travel subtotal	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$859.75**
Telecommunications Service and Equipment	$0.00	$799.96	$1,515.46
DC Telecommunication Equipment (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$236.00	$3,004.50
DC Telecommunication Service (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$652.50	$7,987.50
DC Telecommunication Tolls (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$2,441.07	$33,839.94
HIR Graphics (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$0.00	$119.50
Postage/Courier/Box rental	$0.00	$0.00	$365.42
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	**$0.00**	**$4,129.53**	**$46,832.32**
Printing & Reproduction	$0.00	$0.00	$871.65
Photographic (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$0.00	$19.20
Advertisements	$0.00	$0.00	$2,427.00
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$3,317.85**
Non-Technology Service Contracts	$0.00	$1,285.00	$3,335.00
Consultant Contract Service	$0.00	$0.00	$3,816.18
Training	$0.00	$0.00	$61.05
Web Development, Hosting, Email, and Related Services	$6.16	$1,555.23	$6,954.54
25-Other Services subtotal	**$6.16**	**$2,840.23**	**$14,166.7**
Bottled Water	$0.00	$372.13	$4,435.9
Food and Beverage	$0.00	$0.00	$1,036.9
Office Supplies (Outside)	$0.00	$12,344.10	$37,866.0
Office Supply (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$0.00	$8,460.7
Publications/Reference Material	$0.00	$17,898.00	$106,734.7
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	**$0.00**	**$30,614.23**	**$158,534.4**
Coomputer Hardware Purchase less than $25,000	$0.00	$7,102.00	$55,378.
Computer Software Purchase less than $10,000	$0.00	$5,349.08	$6,642.

Description	December	YTD including December	Cumulative Total
Equipment & Software Maintenance	$0.00	$10,781.55	$50,590.51
Computer Software Purchase greater than or equal to $10,000	$0.00	$13,494.85	$13,494.85
Warranties	$0.00	$0.00	$141.00
31-Equipment subtotal	**$0.00**	**$36,727.48**	**$126,247.10**
Total Expenses	**$6.16**	**$101,743.36**	**$4,710,865.52**

Mr. SPRATT. I have a copy of Mr. Ryan's testimony which I will submit for the record and I would be happy if Mr. Smythe would read it into the record at this point in time. It is not very long.

Mr. SMYTHE, do you want——

The CHAIRMAN. We could have the statement put in the record.

Mr. LUNGREN. We will just accept it.

The CHAIRMAN. We will accept the statement for the record.

Mr. SPRATT. Okay.

[The statement of Mr. Ryan follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE PAUL RYAN
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

27 JANUARY 2010

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Lungren, it is my pleasure to join Chairman Spratt before your committee today. As I testified last February, our committee has a bipartisan tradition regarding the allocation of resources between the majority and minority. I thank Chairman Spratt for keeping that tradition alive and well. The majority makes at least one-third of the personnel budget available to the minority. Equipment for both the majority and minority then comes out of the common fund, on the same schedule, and with the same quality, for both sides.

The budget you approved for our committee is a disciplined one that treats the minority fairly. I'd be happy to answer any questions the committee has.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And I want to tell my friend from South Carolina that I enjoyed my service on the Budget Committee and it was not my decision to get off. I enjoyed working with you, Mr. Chairman, and the staff is an excellent staff both majority and minority.

I believe your committee has the distinction of being the one that requested the smallest increase; that is, I think you asked for no increase this last time, which, as I say, the smallest increase of any request of any committee in the House. And you have actually not expended all of those funds and, having been a member of that committee and still a recipient of the material that comes out of that committee, I know that your committee is doing a great job in terms of presenting those issues. We can disagree on where the majority comes out versus where the minority comes out, but the quality of the work product is exceptionally good, and that is something that we ought to remind folks back home. Your committee is doing excellent work.

You asked for no increase in budget and you even exceeded yourself by coming in below that budget but yet have performed your job and I thank you for that, and I thank Mr. Ryan for that in absentia. And I have no questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you and again, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your time.

Mr. SPRATT. Thank you very much indeed.

The CHAIRMAN. For now this hearing will stand adjourned until 4:00 p.m.

[Whereupon, at 3:25 p.m., the committee was recessed, to reconvene at 4:00 p.m. This same day.]

Mr. GONZALEZ [presiding]. Good afternoon. We are going to reconvene, and at this time we are going to entertain testimony by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services. Each member will obviously have 5 minutes in which to make their statement and then we will have questions that any of the members of the committee wish to pose.

At this time we would recognize the chairman, Mr. Skelton.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. IKE SKELTON, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SKELTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your allowing us to testify and it is good to be here with my friend and my new partner, Buck McKeon, ranking member.

You have the committee's budget data and supporting materials before you; so let me make a few brief remarks.

Before I discuss our summary, let me say that we certainly appreciate the renovation that your committee gave us in our committee room. It looks great and we especially appreciate the renovation to allow wheelchair access as well as the updated audio system. We just had our very first closed briefing there and used it and it is just excellent. So thank you again for that.

Our committee has been very, very active last year and beginning this year. We intend to use our renovated hearing room quite often. Last year we conducted 122 hearings and 55 briefings. At that rate of 177 hearings conducted, I think we will continue to do

that. We had seven pieces of legislation, including the major bill, five hundred and some thirty-eight billion dollars, for the Defense Authorization Act, which is over 50 percent of the discretionary portion of the entire Federal budget, and that includes weapons systems. And we also had major legislation that passed and was sent to the President, the Weapons System Acquisition Reform Act, steps in reforming the process of buying weapons systems, a major step.

Your committee provided our committee with $15.8 million for the 111th Congress. Of that, $7.8 million was allocated for 2009 and the committee expended and obligated 98.8 percent of those funds. The remaining 1.2 percent served as a buffer so we would not exceed any fund allocation.

The committee staff that we have is just outstanding. They are experts in their technically skilled areas and they are all very professional. Our staff now is allocated 71 seats serving 62 members, and of course we think that is far below and we know it is far below the average of other House committees, not in keeping with past history of our committee. During the 103rd Congress, Chairman Les Aspin had a staff of 82 to assist only 55 members. There remains unmet staffing needs on both sides of the aisle, and we would certainly appreciate your consideration to assist us in that regard.

The last thing I would like to mention is to raise the need to upgrade our committee's Internet presence. Buck and I are in agreement that we need to better utilize technology to ensure the public is fully aware of what our committee is doing as well as to support the national defense. To that end we need additional resources to improve both the majority and the minority Web sites to enhance document distribution, video and audio webcasting and increase the visibility of our committee.

These are budgetary challenges and we are certain you can be of support for us. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Skelton follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE IKE SKELTON
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

January 27, 2010

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lungren, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on the where things stand with the Committee on Armed Services' budget along with my friend and new partner, Buck McKeon. You have the committee's budget data and supporting materials before you, so let me make some brief opening remarks and get to your questions.

Before I discuss our financial summary, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both you, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Lungren for supporting the renovation of the main Armed Services Committee hearing room. Our hearing room was desperately in need of renovations to allow

wheelchair access and to replace the outdated audio system. The result, which was returned to us this week, is a hearing room that jumps the committee forward technologically and improves our ability to conduct hearings. We are thrilled that your committee was able to provide for this renovation.

The Armed Services Committee was very active during the first session of the 111th Congress and we intend to make good use of our renovated hearing room in 2010. In 2009 the committee conducted 122 hearing and 55 briefings as we worked to oversee a military actively fighting two wars. At the current rate, I expect the committee to easily exceed the 177 hearings conducted in the 110th Congress. The committee saw seven pieces of its legislation passed by the House including the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, which

authorized over 50 percent of the discretionary portion of the entire Federal budget, and the Weapons System Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, which made significant steps forward in reforming the process by which the Department of Defense buys weapons systems. This oversight and legislative work comports with our committee oversight plan to oversee readiness, acquisition, military manpower and the conduct of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

To support this work your committee provided the Armed Services Committee $15.8 million for the 111th Congress. Of that, $7.8 million was allocated for 2009 and the committee expended and obligated 98.8 percent of those funds. The remaining 1.2 percent served as a buffer to ensure we did not exceed our funding allocation. The majority of these operating funds went to fulfill the

substantial oversight responsibilities of the committee and to retain a technically-skilled and professional staff.

We will need to work with this committee going forward on some additional funding needs. Our staff, now allocated at 71, serves 62 members and reflects a ratio of staff to committee members that is below the average of other House committees and is not in keeping with the past history of the committee. For example, during the 103rd Congress Chairman Les Aspin had a staff of 82 to assist his 55 committee members. There remain unmet staffing needs on both sides of the aisle to allow us to complete our ambitious oversight agenda and to compete effectively for the right talent to oversee the military's programs. The Armed Services Committee continues to operate with our unique bipartisan approach with a unified and bipartisan staff, within which Mr. McKeon controls

fifteen slots. Our committee has always had a collaborative bipartisan approach to both our work and our staff.

One last area of concern that I would like to raise is the need to upgrade the committee's Internet presence. Buck and I are in agreement that we need to better utilize technology to ensure the public is fully aware of what this committee is doing to support the Nation's Defense. To that end, we need additional resources to improve both the Majority and Minority websites to enhance document distribution, video and audio webcasting and increase the visibility of the committee. We look forward to working with you over time to meet these additional needs.

These are challenging budgetary times. We know this. We appreciate your support for our committee's work and look forward to your continued support in the future.

Thank you for your time, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to answer questions once Mr. McKeon has completed his statement.

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Armed Services
FULL COMMITTEE
Fund Balance Statement by CHA Requirements
December

Total Authorization		
111-1		**$7,769,820.00**
Less Expenses for:		
January	2009	$518,456.98
February		$571,642.41
March		$585,266.98
April		$684,012.57
May		$605,139.75
June		$610,273.81
July		$624,716.16
August		$580,042.52
September		$601,360.90
October		$600,467.17
November		$786,601.70
December		$672,721.22
Total Expenses to Date:		**$7,440,702.17**
Unexpended authorization		**$329,117.83**

01/15/10

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Armed Services
FULL COMMITTEE
Monthly Statement by CHA Requirements
111-1 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
11-Personnel Compensation subtotal	$620,368.32	$7,140,469.00	$7,140,469.00
12-Benefits to Current Employees subtotal	$0.00	$7,520.45	$7,520.45
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	$6,144.60	$72,020.56	$72,020.56
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	$130.00	$306.40	$306.40
25-Other Services subtotal	$32,438.46	$111,710.58	$111,710.58
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	$11,593.17	$77,240.36	$77,240.36
31-Equipment subtotal	$2,046.67	$31,434.82	$31,434.82
Total Expenses	$672,721.22	$7,440,702.17	$7,440,702.17

FEB - missing payroll for 2 staffers - $18,955.00
MAY - missing payroll for 1 staffer - $60.00
SEP - Error non-cmte staffer listed on MFS - $2,500
OCT - Error non-cmte staffer listed on MFS - $83.33
SEPT - MFS Error - funds should be used from 2008 funds - $150.00

Outstanding vouchers - $34,139.92

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

We will recognize now the ranking member, Mr. McKeon.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MCKEON. Thank you, Chairman Gonzalez, Ranking Member Lungren, and distinguished members of the committee. As a former businessman, I applaud your new initiative to review how each committee spent its budget in the first session of the 111th Congress. It is hard to prepare a credible business plan for the coming year without reviewing the previous year and making necessary adjustments. I believe you will agree that under the leadership of my new good friend and partner, Chairman Ike Skelton, we have efficiently spent our limited resources.

While we have accomplished a great deal, there are a number—multiple programs, including and especially the Department of Defense initiated mid-year programmatic changes, requiring closer scrutiny. Due to our limited staff, we could provide only cursory oversight to these programmatic changes and necessarily deferred digging into higher—high profile—several high profile programs. While our Nation is at war, our priority naturally focused on the war effort, but we do have a duty to examine everything the Department of Defense does to meet emergency threats to our national security.

As the chairman noted, the Department of Defense budget accounts for more than 50 percent of all Federal discretionary spending. Additionally, we are engaged in two wars and are seemingly discovering new threats and undertaking new operations weekly. In barely a month we have had a Christmas Day terrorist bomber, a resurgent al Qaeda in Yemen, and a major relief operation in Haiti.

The programs our committee oversees are subject to change every year. Indeed, programs often change during the year. We do not oversee mandatory programs on automatic pilot nor long authorized programs subject to the relatively lengthy swings of the economic cycle but dynamic literally life and death national security efforts that are in a constant flux. These huge complex programs require continuous examination by expert staff.

Last April, the Secretary of Defense announced a multitude of major changes to Pentagon spending priorities, yet we are barely able to address those issues. Next week we will receive the Department's Quadrennial Defense Review, setting the course of defense priorities in spending for the next 4 years on the same day that we receive the President's budget submission for fiscal year 2011. It is absolutely critical these plans be critically examined by the Congress, yet we have staffing and budget ratios well below those of other House committees.

The oversight of the huge national security budget and important international operations takes a large talented and well-coordinated staff effort. I urge the committee to provide the Committee on Armed Services with additional staff and fiscal resources commensurate with our sworn constitutional duty to provide for the common defense.

Yet these are difficult times. I understand that. But national security cannot be shortchanged. Press reports indicate that the President will freeze discretionary spending for all programs except national defense and a few others. I cannot speak for other committees, but I do know that we need to conduct effective, meaningful oversight. If the administration believes that national defense should be exempt from budget freezes in these tough economic times, then Congress should do no less.

Lastly, I have to echo the chairman's concern about the committee's Internet presence. In today's world no credible organization can operate effectively without an aggressive, robust, and well-managed Web site. Frankly, both Ike and I operate minimally functional sites that are in need of professional help. We don't want to be flashy, just thorough, informative, and transparent. Additionally, we need better video and webcasting capability to highlight Department of Defense officials and others providing testimony on these high-profile programs and issues. We owe the American people and our men and women in uniform no less.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I look forward to your questions.

[The statement of Mr. McKeon follows:]

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thanks very much, Mr. McKeon. The Chair will recognize Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

When I hear your testimony talking about the serious nature of the jurisdictional issues that you have, I am reminded a number of years when I was on the Budget Committee and the then head of the OMB said, you know, if we don't get our mandatory spending under control, and he was referring to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, he said by the year 2040 there will be zero left in the budget for all discretionary matters, including national defense. And I thought, whoa, talking about national defense as discretionary and talking about the fact that we would have zero. Now, we know we would never get to that, but it does show to me at times that we don't always appreciate what the first obligation of the Federal Government is. So I appreciate the work that you do on your committee.

One of the things I would like to ask, your committee, do you have the one-third/two-thirds ratio or do you have nonpartisan staff members? How does that work?

Mr. SKELTON. We historically for the last 50 years have had a bipartisan, nonpartisan effort. However, the minority, when I was minority I had X number of appointees as we do that today. When I was initially ranking member at first, I had seven of my very own. And I don't know what Buck started off with, but fortunately he is up to 15 of his very own. But a professional staffer is just that, is on call for whoever needs help whether it be pay raise or airplanes or ships or whatever. And frankly it works, it is a pretty good tradition. I have been on the committee since late 1980 and it works very, very well. However, I do remember the fact that we had the larger number of staffers for only 55 members back when Les Aspin was here, but Les Aspin got it.

Mr. LUNGREN. Mr. McKeon, about how that works out with staff?

Mr. MCKEON. Well, we are having some negotiations. We are talking about it. I feel we need more people on our side and I like the bipartisanship and Ike and I work together very, very well. I need more people. He doesn't feel at this point he is able to give me more. But, you know, I am a little unique. I have been a ranking member on two committees; so I get to see what Education and Labor was like and what Armed Services is like. When I was chairman on the Education Committee, we had over 50 people. It is 52 now. I think it was about the same when I was chairman. And as ranking member I had 26. And we had a lot of work to do on that committee. And I am not saying that they should have less people, but now I get to see what we have to do in Armed Services and we pass a $550 billion budget and then we almost start right away on the next budget, and we could use more help so that we could oversee better the $550 billion and the $120 billion that goes to Iraq and Afghanistan. And so I am here pleading for more resources that we could use, and then Ike and I will have to work out how we use those resources. But I don't want to blow up the bipartisanship that we have on the committee, but we need more help.

Mr. LUNGREN. I was struck by the chairman saying when he first came he got seven people. I remember when I was elected Attorney General I had almost a thousand lawyers and 5,000 employees, and I said, How many do I get to bring in? Seven. Someone said it is like trying to turn the Queen Mary with a paddle. But we managed somehow. We managed somehow.

Let me just ask you this. We had a real concern across the government in legislative—excuse me. The executive branch gets more publicity, but we know that we have been subject to cyber attacks throughout. Does your committee get the support that it needs from HIR and our arm of HIR which works 24/7 on just dealing with cybersecurity?

Mr. SKELTON. The answer is yes. And you may know that the Department of Defense is in the process of establishing a cyber command.

Mr. LUNGREN. Right.

Mr. SKELTON. That of course will come under our purview. We are blessed with a very few, but we are blessed with experts in that field. As time goes by undoubtedly we will need additional experts in that field, too. But this is serious business. This is very serious business. We just had a briefing, classified briefing, on China that touched on this issue just a few moments ago.

Mr. LUNGREN. I know Members are complaining now about how we have to have passwords for our BlackBerries and we are now moving towards encrypting the information here. But the fact of the matter is this is serious business, and Members of Congress have to understand that we have got to be part of it as well as show an example for others. We have had Members lose these things, even in foreign countries, and people have to understand the information that is in here that could go down and some Members think well there is no—I don't have any information. I am just on this committee or that committee. Well, we know it is called connecting the dots. You get a lot of information or you can break into our systems and be able to have a presence there is seemingly

undetected. And we have just got to do a better job. I just wanted to make sure that you felt you are getting the support that you need in your committee in that regard as well.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you, and the Chair will recognize Mrs. Davis.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And certainly Mr. Skelton and Mr. McKeon, chairman and ranking, did a fine job I think in presenting the Armed Services Committee. It is a very active committee, I know, because it is pretty exhaustive actually. If you attend all the hearings that are going on, it is a tremendous amount of workload and I know that the staff works very hard. So I really am here to just say that I think that the question of additional help is not just in looking to add people that would not be working hard. I mean clearly that is what happens on this committee. And I appreciate the fact that I think Mr. McKeon certainly has great support and probably you would like to have more. But I think my feeling, being there as both a minority and majority member, is that the staff is there for everybody and very, very helpful. I mean there were times I honestly did not know who was who because, you know, whether it was assisting us in some of the trips we had to make to Iraq, Afghanistan, wherever that might be, I honestly did not know. Everybody was extremely helpful, good with information, and willing to answer questions.

So I just want to applaud the staff overall. Really it is a very, very hardworking staff. And one of the things that is happening now that I think is very important is the oversight on the committee, taking issues such as the oversight of contractors, which was done earlier this year and breaking off a committee to do that work, and that takes additional staff willing and able to pick up that burden and I think they did a great job. So I just want to thank them for being here.

Mr. SKELTON. If I may comment on that, when the Democrats came in the majority, we kept by and far most of the folks that were already there. They are pros. That is what they do in life. And I don't think you could find a better set of skilled defense people anywhere than on our staff. I think they are just excellent.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you very much.

Quickly, just a couple of observations and one question, and that is, first, the fact that you are pointing out the need to improve what I will refer to as your Internet presence. One of course is transparency and letting the public know what you're doing to the extent that you are allowed to get that information out there I think is very, very important. And also as an information source. Obviously the public, their faith can be shaken at times and the work that you do and the fact that it could be reviewed to the extent it can. So I commend you for that. I think it is underutilized, and the fact that you recognize its importance.

The other thing is yes, there is going to be a freeze but there is not going to be a freeze when it comes to what you do. My concern of course is that your plate is already overflowing and will continue to be overflowing, and I think the ranking member, Mr. McKeon, said something about cursory oversight. These programs that you oversee, that you authorize and such are incredibly costly and can

be very complicated. So that is a concern that I would express right now, and I am very sensitive to the remarks that were made regarding the need for additional personnel and such, which leads me to the only question I have, and that is to Mr. Skelton.

Staff had pointed out to me, Mr. Chairman, that at your last testimony before the committee you pointed out how difficult it was to retain highly qualified staff with the expertise because obviously the grass can be greener out there in the private sector. What is the status of that since your last testimony?

Mr. SKELTON. Well, the Pentagon has taken several—I don't know the exact number, but they have taken several. And the young lady right behind me has been nominated to be number two in the Air Force when the Senate gets around to confirming her; so we lose our Staff Director. My recollection is, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Lungren, that I asked for an additional 12 slots when I testified before is my recollection. Does that sound right? I think I am right. And we could use every one of them. We lost 13 staff mostly to the Pentagon last year.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Well, thank you very much, of course, for your service and the fine work that the committee does.

Do you have anything further? Otherwise you are excused at this time and I will see you tonight or at votes. Thank you.

Mr. SKELTON. Thank you so much.

Mr. GONZALEZ. And I believe that we have the Committee on Small Business. Are they here?

I welcome the Chair, the Honorable Nydia Velázquez, and of course the ranking member Sam Graves. Each of you will be given 5 minutes to make your statement and then to entertain any questions members of the committee may have.

The Chair will recognize Chairwoman Velázquez.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Thank you, Chairman Gonzalez and Ranking Member Lungren. I really appreciate the opportunity to come before the Committee on House Administration to further discuss the first session's budget for the Committee on Small Business.

Pursuant to House Resolution 279, the Committee on Small Business was funded at $7,236,082 for the 111th Congress, with $3,548,839 of those moneys set as the first session limitation. As I have stated before, Ranking Member Graves has full control over a third of that budget.

With that being said, it should be noted that the Committee on Small Business has been very productive this past year with 18 bills passed in 2009. Mr. Graves and myself have pooled all our resources to accomplish such an endeavor. In fact, Mr. Chairman, you will need to go back to the 98th Congress to find a time when the Small Business Committee has done more. At that time 22 bills were passed and that was over a 2-year period. Again we managed to pass 18 bills in the time span of just 1 year.

This Congress the committee obtained a much needed increase in terms of funding. I was very pleased to see this considering that previously small business was awarded the smallest allocation of any committee. If I recall correctly, we only received 3.3 percent

more than we did during the 103rd Congress, which was 17 years ago. Once again, I would like to point out that our budget has not come close to keeping pace with inflation. At this time we are the fourth lowest funded committee in the 111th Congress. Yet as far as hearings and bills passed, you could say, Mr. Chairman, that we are one of the most active. We have matched the committee's hearing production to that of the last year that saw Small Business rank second in total hearings back in the 109th Congress.

I am happy to report that the Office of the Speaker responded favorably to our request for additional staff slots and granted us with an increase of nine slots, six for the majority and three for the minority, effective June 4, 2009. This takes the Small Business Committee to 42 staff slots total, which are essential for Mr. Graves and myself to further strengthen the committee's ability to cover the broad range of issue areas that encompass small business, especially given the time of our economy where so many small businesses are suffering.

As chairwoman of the Small Business Committee, one of my priorities has been to address the committee's technology gap. We have a responsibility to our members and frankly we do not have the necessary tools to provide the support at an acceptable level, which needless to say puts us at a serious disadvantage. I would like to point out that when first taking over in the 110th Congress and for the duration of the first session in 2007, the committee operated under duress with an antiquated computer system and inadequate equipment. It was imperative that we make significant investments to correct these deficiencies. Thankfully, we have been able to get over this hurdle. I don't think we are all the way there, but we have made significant progress the past few years.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Graves and I have worked in a bipartisan manner so that the Small Business Committee continues to be the productive committee it has been. We are aware of the current crisis facing our Nation's small businesses, and we welcome the challenges they represent.

Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren, Mr. Gonzalez, I thank you for your time and please let me if there are any questions you may have.

[The statement of Ms. Velázquez follows:]

NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ, NEW YORK
CHAIRWOMAN

SAM GRAVES, MISSOURI
RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business

2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6315

Statement of Chairwoman Nydia M. Velázquez
Before the Committee on House Administration
Follow Up Hearing on Committee Funding
January 27, 2010 3:45pm

Thank you, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren.

I appreciate the return invitation to testify before the Committee on House Administration to further discuss the first session's budget for the Committee on Small Business.

Pursuant to H.Res 279, the Committee on Small Business was funded at $7,236,082 for the 111th Congress with $3,548,839 of those monies set as the first session limitation. As I've stated before, Ranking Member Graves has *full* control over a third of that budget. With that being said, it should be noted that the Committee on Small Business has been very productive this past year, with 18 bills passed in 2009. Mr. Graves and myself have pulled all of our resources to accomplish such an endeavor. In fact Mr. Chairman, you would need to go back to the 98th Congress to find a time when the Small Business Committee has done more. At that time 22 bills were passed and that was over a two year period. Again, we managed to pass 18 bills in the time span of just one year.

This Congress, the committee obtained a much needed increase in terms of funding. I was very pleased to see this considering that previously Small Business was awarded the smallest allocation of any other committee. If I recall correctly, we only received 3.3 percent more than we did during the 103rd congress, which was 17 years ago. Once again, I'd like to point out that our budget has not come close to keeping pace with inflation. At this time we are the fourth lowest funded committee in the 111th Congress yet as far as hearings and bills passed, you could say Mr. Chairman that we are one of the most active – we have matched the committee's hearing production to that of the last year that saw Small Business rank second in total hearings – back during the 109th Congress.

I am happy to report that the Office of the Speaker responded favorably to our request for additional staff slots and granted us with an increase of 9 slots – 6 for the Majority and 3 for the Minority effective June 4, 2009. This takes the Small Business Committee to 42 staff slots total which are essential for Mr. Graves and myself to further strengthen the committee's ability to cover the broad range of issue areas that encompass small business.

As Chairwoman of the Small Business Committee, one of my priorities has been to address the committee's technology gap. We have a responsibility to our members and frankly we did not have the necessary tools to provide the support at an acceptable level -- which needless to say put us at a serious disadvantage. I'd like to point out that when first taking over in the 110th Congress, and for the duration of the first session in 2007, the committee operated under duress with an antiquated computer system and inadequate equipment. It was imperative that we make significant investments to correct these deficiencies. Thankfully, we've been able to get over this hurdle. I don't think we are all the way there yet but we have made significant progress the past few years.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Graves and I have worked in a bi-partisan manner so that the Small Business Committee continues to be the productive committee it has been. We are aware of the current crises facing our nation's small businesses and we welcome the challenges they represent.

Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren, I thank you both very much for your time. Please let me know if there are any questions you might have.

14/10

U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
MAJORITY
Fund Balance Statement by Paid Date
December

Total Authorization		
SBCD 111-1		**$2,365,892.67**
Less Expenses for:		
January	2009	$161,249.50
February		$155,402.26
March		$149,138.49
April		$149,799.80
May		$147,926.10
June		$143,648.40
July		$160,729.54
August		$152,479.44
September		$152,927.25
October		$182,856.69
November		$211,191.73
December		$275,796.55
Total Expenses to Date:		**$2,043,145.75**
Unexpended authorization		**$322,746.92**

U.S. House of Representatives

Small Business Committee Minority
SM000
Fund Balance Statement by Paid Date
December

Total Authorization		
SBRC111-1		**$1,182,946.33**
Less Expenses for:		
January	2009	$54,508.98
February		$84,707.91
March		$71,648.36
April		$74,406.67
May		$77,190.54
June		$79,900.96
July		$80,980.85
August		$83,162.39
September		$84,839.98
October		$83,312.21
November		$79,970.31
December		$103,211.98
Total Expenses to Date:		**$957,841.14**
Unexpended authorization		**$225,105.19**

01/14/10

U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
MAJORITY
Monthly Statement by Paid Date
SBCD 111-1 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Non-Statutory Compensation	$218,116.93	$1,775,310.73	$1,775,310.73
Accrued Leave	$0.00	$3,572.22	$3,572.22
Bonus	$42,810.51	$59,110.51	$59,110.51
11-Personnel Compensation subtotal	**$260,927.44**	**$1,837,993.46**	**$1,837,993.46**
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$1,496.67	$1,496.67
12-Benefits to Current Employees subtotal	**$0.00**	**$1,496.67**	**$1,496.67**
Commercial Transportation	$0.00	$3,918.84	$3,918.84
Lodging	$0.00	$289.52	$289.52
Meals	$0.00	$301.65	$301.65
Car Rental	$0.00	$695.75	$695.75
Taxi/Parking/Tolls	$10.00	$435.50	$435.50
21-Travel subtotal	**$10.00**	**$5,641.26**	**$5,641.26**
DC Telecommunication Equipment (TRANSFER)	$164.00	$2,610.68	$2,610.68
DC Telecommunication Service (TRANSFER)	$256.67	$2,671.67	$2,671.67
HIR Graphics (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$20.00	$20.00
Postage/Courier/Box rental	$11.59	$80.86	$80.86
Franked Mail	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Equipment Rental	$0.00	$126.00	$126.00
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	**$432.26**	**$5,509.21**	**$5,509.21**
Printing & Reproduction	$33.50	$1,507.00	$1,507.00
Photographic (TRANSFER)	$0.00	$81.50	$81.50
Advertisements	$513.00	$3,694.00	$3,694.00
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	**$546.50**	**$5,282.50**	**$5,282.50**
Technology Service Contracts	$1,274.80	$15,300.00	$15,300.00
25-Other Services subtotal	**$1,274.80**	**$15,300.00**	**$15,300.00**
Bottled Water	$225.90	$1,097.57	$1,097.57
Food and Beverage	$618.77	$2,650.40	$2,650.40
Office Supplies (Outside)	$0.00	$5,546.60	$5,546.60
Office Supply (TRANSFER)	$264.96	$5,337.57	$5,337.57
Publications/Reference Material	$9,986.49	$10,336.48	$10,336.48
Uniforms	$0.00	$138,024.17	$138,024.17
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	**$11,096.12**	**$162,992.79**	**$162,992.79**
Office Equipment Purchases less than $25,000	$939.43	$939.43	$939.43
Computer Hardware Purchase less than $25,000	$0.00	$1,149.00	$1,149.00

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Equipment & Software Maintenance	$570.00	$6,840.84	$6,840.84
Equipment subtotal	**$1,509.43**	**$8,929.27**	**$8,929.27**
Miscellaneous Expenses	$0.00	$0.59	$0.59
99-Miscellaneous subtotal	**$0.00**	**$0.59**	**$0.59**
Total Expenses	**$275,796.55**	**$2,043,145.75**	**$2,043,145.75**

01/14/10

U.S. House of Representatives
Small Business Committee Minority
SM000
Monthly Statement by Paid Date
SBRC111-1 December

Description	December	YTD Including December	Cumulative Total
Non-Statutory Compensation	$76,633.31	$875,808.98	$875,808.98
11-Personnel Compensation subtotal	**$76,633.31**	**$875,808.98**	**$875,808.98**
Transit Benefits	$0.00	$929.03	$929.03
12-Benefits to Current Employees subtotal	**$0.00**	**$929.03**	**$929.03**
Commercial Transportation	$0.00	$1,729.70	$1,729.70
Lodging	$0.00	$791.33	$791.33
Meals	$0.00	$1,783.11	$1,783.11
Car Rental	$0.00	$144.96	$144.96
Taxi/Parking/Tolls	$0.00	$140.50	$140.50
21-Travel subtotal	**$0.00**	**$4,589.60**	**$4,589.60**
Telecommunications Service and Equipment	$79.98	$179.96	$179.96
DC Telecommunication Equipment (TRANSFER)	$82.00	$1,305.30	$1,305.30
DC Telecommunication Service (TRANSFER)	$128.33	$2,537.29	$2,537.29
DC Telecommunication Tolls (TRANSFER)	$1,188.88	$11,616.43	$11,616.43
HIR Graphics (TRANSFER)	$27.00	$27.00	$27.00
Equipment Rental	$1,454.50	$1,748.06	$1,748.06
23-Rent, Communications and Utilities subtotal	**$2,960.69**	**$17,414.04**	**$17,414.04**
Printing & Reproduction	$0.00	$200.50	$200.50
24-Printing and Reproduction subtotal	**$0.00**	**$200.50**	**$200.50**
Training	$0.00	$477.25	$477.25
Technology Service Contracts	$1,274.79	$15,294.67	$15,294.67
25-Other Services subtotal	**$1,274.79**	**$15,771.92**	**$15,771.92**
Bottled Water	$0.00	$572.69	$572.69
Food and Beverage	$0.00	$89.99	$89.99
Office Supplies (Outside)	$0.00	$4,273.56	$4,273.56
Office Supply (TRANSFER)	$50.61	$1,610.32	$1,610.32
Publications/Reference Material	$0.00	$11,355.63	$11,355.63
26-Supplies and Materials subtotal	**$50.61**	**$17,902.19**	**$17,902.19**
Equipment & Software Maintenance	$292.58	$3,224.88	$3,224.88
31-Equipment subtotal	**$292.58**	**$3,224.88**	**$3,224.88**
Miscellaneous Expenses	$22,000.00	$22,000.00	$22,000.00
99-Miscellaneous subtotal	**$22,000.00**	**$22,000.00**	**$22,000.00**

Total Expenses	**$103,211.98**	**$957,841.14**	**$957,841.14**

Mr. GONZALEZ. The Chair will recognize the ranking member, Mr. Graves.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. SAM GRAVES, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. GRAVES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Lungren. I will be brief.

The chairwoman pointed out very adequately how the committee works. It is a committee that, you know, we continue to have a great working relationship between the chairman's office and my office. Our staffs work very well together. Particularly in these times when small businesses are struggling in a big way as a result of the economy, we have been able to get our work done on a timely basis. Our problem is with the Senate more than anything else and trying to get them move on some of the pieces of legislation, particularly the reauthorization of the SBA.

I appreciate everything the chairwoman does. It is a very important committee. I would argue particularly in this these times it is one of the most important committees we have here on the Hill, and I welcome any questions you may have.

[The statement of Mr. Graves follows:]

Statement of
The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member, House Committee on Small Business
Review of the Use of Committee Funds in the First Session of the 111th Congress
January 27, 2010

Thank you, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren, for the opportunity to provide you with an update of the budget activities of the Committee on Small Business during the past year.

The deteriorating economy had a direct and significant impact on the activities of the Committee on Small Business this Congress. Small businesses are among those hit hardest by these difficult times.

Our Committee has held 54 hearings this Congress examining issues currently faced by small businesses. Hearings were held on a range of topics, including access to health care, entrepreneurial development, and the lack of access to capital for businesses.

Additionally, the Committee passed 18 bills, including the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009, the Small Business Health Information Technology Financing Act, and the Small Business Microlending Expansion Act of 2009. The 1st session of the 111th Congress proved to be an extremely productive one for the Committee.

As Ranking Member of the Committee, I have control of 1/3 of the entire Committee on Small Business' budget, $1,182,946.33. Determination of spending priorities for the minority office were at my discretion. I would like to thank the Chairwoman for the cooperative manner she has run this Committee as well as for the opportunities she has afforded the minority

During the past year, important technological improvements were made, including the creation of a new minority website. This has made Committee activities more transparent to the public and has also served as a resource for small businesses. Additionally, our budget funds allowed us to hire key staff, enabling our office to run as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to come before the Committee to discuss the Committee on Small Business budget and our accomplishments for the 1st session of the 111th Congress. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you very much, Mr. Graves.

The Chair will recognize Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. Did I hear you correctly, Mr. Graves, that you have trouble with the Senate? I am astounded.

First of all, I want to thank you both for coming in and I want to thank you, Madam Chairman, for the fact that your committee operates with one-third of the budget actually given to the minority and not just personnel but one-third. That is a great example. We appreciate that and you have been consistent in that.

I notice that you have a large amount of your budget that you did not spend this last year. Was that because of staff or what was that? And I am not saying you should have spent it all. I am just trying to find out.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Yes. Basically the money that we requested was to hire five more slots and we were not approved for the slots until late in June, in the beginning of June. And as you know, my committee has been overwhelmed with the work responding to the economic crisis impacting small businesses. So we need the money. It has not been spent but it definitely wasn't because we didn't need it. It was just the timing when those slots were approved by the Speaker.

Mr. LUNGREN. I appreciate that. I also notice that you are the only person who submitted a statement using both sides of the paper; so you folks are doing an excellent job in saving money wherever you can.

Where are you in terms of your IT? Are your systems where you think you need to be? Does the committee need to upgrade? I mean we always need to upgrade somewhat but are you substantially where you need to be?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I believe we achieved the technology gap and the upgrade that we needed to have, yes.

Mr. LUNGREN. Are you satisfied with that, Mr. Graves?

Mr. GRAVES. We have made some significant changes and launched our minority Web site for the Small Business Committee and have been working—in fact, that has been our main focus. The committee needed—there were just a lot of improvements that needed to be done, the computer system being a big part of that, and that is actually where we have been focusing the majority of our attention from the minority side is just making the improvements. The chairwoman has given us the resources we need and the latitude to be able to make good use of what we are trying to do.

Mr. LUNGREN. I must confess I haven't taken a look at your Web site, but a lot of small businesses in my community, as I am sure in other districts, are looking to see what the government is doing for them or to them or are allowing them to do. They are very interested in the government presence or absence of presence in the small business world. Would going to your Web sites assist them in finding their way through the morass of the Federal Government more than just giving them information about your committee? So if I were to tell them in addition to going to the Small Business Administration Web site, you ought to go to the committee Web site because there is information there that could assist you in finding good pathways to answer your questions.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Definitely and—but SBA, the Small Business Administration, also has a good Web site that will—can guide them to where the resources are and information regarding where the businesses are established, regional offices and all the network of small business development centers that we have across the Nation, close to 68.

Mr. LUNGREN. When I am having a town hall meeting or something and someone asks me about small business, in addition to the fact I happen to think tax policy is extremely important there, but I also try and tell them you might check the Web site for the SBA. It hadn't dawned on me to say check the Web site at Small Business Committee from the House. But that would be——

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. You are welcome to do that, sure.

Mr. GRAVES. I mentioned earlier how active we were. And our number of hits and inquiries has just exploded since we have launched our new—or gotten so active particularly in the IT area. We have gotten a lot of inquiries and sent out a lot of information. And we encourage, too, if they can't find what they need to find on our Web site, just call the office, the committee office, and I know that the chairwoman's site does the same thing and we will navigate them through. Sometimes the SBA can be pretty tough to find your way through unless you have a little bit of help, but we have seen an explosion on those, if you want to call them hits, inquiries, however you want to put it.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. And workshops that are conducted nationwide throughout regions and congressional districts.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you, Mr. Lungren.

Just a real quick observation, having served on the committee where the chairwoman—obviously it was last Congress but I can attest to the busy, busy agenda and it has even gotten busier, which leads me to the next question to both the chairwoman and to the ranking member. Tonight, the President will make his State of the Union Address and he is going to touch on small business. So what I perceive for your committee is a lot more work this second session of the 111th. How are you all prepared budget-wise for what I think would be the additional workload? Now, you may disagree and say, "Look, we are already so busy that we are going to be busy as heck anyway." What do you see in the coming months budget-wise and workload?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Well, as I mentioned to you in my statement, we are the committee that received the smallest amount of any—even when you compare that we got, I believe, one of the highest percentages last year. But that doesn't make up for the fact that throughout the years the committee really got the smallest amount of any of the committees and it doesn't keep up with inflation. So we will take every help that we can get and every support in terms of the budget.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you.

Mr. Graves.

Mr. GRAVES. So much of it depends on what the President is going to propose tonight. If it is an expansion of SBA programs and an expansion of some of the—you know, even some new programs,

obviously we are going to have to wade our way through that and work our way through it. But most of it depends obviously on what he is going to do. If it is tax policy, that could be something completely different.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you very much and if you have anything further we will entertain it at this time. Otherwise you are dismissed.

Mr. Lungren, anything?

Mr. LUNGREN. No, thank you.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Otherwise we stand adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 4:35 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]