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COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 112TH CONGRESS (DAY 2)

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

Held in Washington, DC, March 2, 2011

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COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 112TH CONGRESS (DAY 2)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011

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

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:40 a.m., in room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Daniel E. Lungren (chairman of the committee) presiding.

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

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

The CHAIRMAN. All right. The committee is back in session to hear from the Ways and Means Committee chairman and ranking member about their work for this year and the budget. We have all of the voluminous material that you have sent to us on personnel, on oversight, on other expenditures. If you have a prepared statement, that would be part of the record. But we are very interested in seeing what you have to say. Thank you for coming.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. DAVE CAMP, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. CAMP. Thank you. Good morning, Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady and members of the committee. I am here today to present the proposed budget for the Committee on Ways and Means for the 112th Congress, and I am joined by our ranking member and my friend from Michigan Mr. Levin.

In accordance with our committee rules, the members of the Ways and Means Committee have already met and approved the budget before you. Before we get into the details of the budget, I would just like to make a couple of points.

First and foremost, this budget reflects our Nation's current financial problems and the sacrifices many Americans have been forced to make as the unemployment rate has been stuck at or about 9 percent for nearly the last 2 years. Just as these families

have had to cut back, we think it is appropriate for the committee to cut back. As such, we proposed cutting the committee's budget as compared to the last Congress by a total of 5 percent, a savings of over $1 million for the American taxpayers.

Second, I would note that we have held flat the number of staff allotted to the committee and have reduced the funding allocated toward staff salaries.

That concludes my statement. I would be prepared to answer any questions that the committee may have.

[The statement of Mr. Camp follows:]

Chairman Dave Camp
Committee on Ways and Means
Testimony before the Committee on House Administration regarding the Ways and Means Committee Budget for the 112th Congress

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady and Members of the Committee, I am here today to present the proposed budget for the Committee on Ways and Means for the 112th Congress and am joined by our Ranking Member and my friend from Michigan, Sandy Levin.

In accordance with our Committee rules, the Members of the Ways and Means Committee have already met and approved the budget before you. Before we get into the details of the budget and any questions you may have, I would like to make the following points.

First and foremost, this budget reflects our nation's current financial problems and the sacrifices many Americans have been forced to make at as the unemployment rate has remained stuck at or above nine percent for nearly the last two years. Just as these families have had to cut back, we think it is appropriate for the Committee to cutback. As such, we proposed cutting the Committee's budget as compared to the last Congress by a total of five percent – a savings of over $1 million for American taxpayers.

Second, I would note that we have held flat the number of staff allotted to the Committee and have reduced the funding allocated toward staff salaries.

Third, as you may know, we have a long tradition at Ways and Means of the Minority receiving a full one-third of the entire Committee budget and staff. In addition to receiving their allocation, the Minority gets to spend their monies as they see fit without interference from the Majority. That was the case in the past and will continue to be the case for the 112th Congress.

I thank the Chairman and the Members of the Committee for this opportunity to present our budget request and justification. I look forward to any questions you may have.

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The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Levin.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. SANDER M. LEVIN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. LEVIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brady and your colleagues.

On behalf of the minority, I express full support for this budget. We were fully consulted. It represents the cut that Mr. Camp has suggested. As you can see, our funding goes very much for salaries, and we receive our full share.

I would just like to add, I did leaf through a lot of this detail, or some of it, and I just want to add—I know Mr. Camp believes this fully—our staffs work very, very hard, and everybody should understand the long hours that they undertake to work on behalf of the committee within the rules that are incumbent upon us.

I just want to add that because Mr. Camp and I have been working with the staffs over the years, and I don't want to say it is the hardest-working staff, because your staff would not like me to say that, but there is no staff that works harder than the Ways and Means Committee.

So I join in urging your support of this proposal. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

[The statement of Mr. Levin follows:]

Sander M. Levin, Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
Before the Committee on House Administration
March 2, 2011

- We are in support of the Ways and Means Committee budget request. It was approved by our Committee by unanimous consent on February 28, 2011.

- We were consulted as this budget was being developed and had an opportunity for input.

- The request that is being submitted would reduce what was allotted to us in the last Congress by 5%.

- As you can see the large part of our funding is dedicated to salaries with the rest going toward equipment, supplies and materials.

- I am pleased to report that the Democrats will have full control over our 1/3 share of the Committee's budget.

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IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 116

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Ways and Means in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

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

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RESOLUTION

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Ways and Means in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Ways and Means (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $19,602,731 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $9,801,365 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $9,801,366 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

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

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

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

○

The CHAIRMAN. You allocate your resources between majority and minority in a way that is satisfactory to the two of you?

Mr. LEVIN. Yes.

Mr. CAMP. We do. Historically it has always been a one-third/two-third ratio. That was the allocation when I was in the minority. That is the allocation now that I represent the majority. We have had a tradition of that on the committee, and that continues.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have any shared staff?

Mr. CAMP. Shared staff with other committees? Between ourselves?

The CHAIRMAN. No, professional staff. Or is it all majority and minority?

Mr. CAMP. Responsibilities are divided along majority and minority, but they do work closely together, developing important legislation. So there is a lot of consultation between the staffs.

The CHAIRMAN. And the 5 percent decrease in funds, where specifically or mostly did you achieve your savings?

Mr. CAMP. We reduced our personnel costs. We held flat our number of filled staff positions. We limited some underlying budget items, specifically equipment and travel, and we streamlined some of our processes to better utilize electronic resources.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Levin.

Mr. LEVIN. That is what we did. Obviously we had a loss of personnel. This has happened before, and the two staffs worked together. You will see this detailed. It took a long period of time to put it together. It was done so carefully with maximum attention to efficiency.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you been able to utilize technology to create some of those efficiencies? Some of the committees have come in and talked about the technology fixes they had last year which they think will assist them during this Congress.

Mr. LEVIN. We will be using advanced videoconferencing and chat technology that will allow some interaction via secure on-line areas, which I think will in turn help reduce some of the e-mails, phone calls, face-to-face meetings, allowing Members and staff to utilize resources better. So we do intend to do that.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Brady.

Mr. CAMP. I did also want to mention, we will use video-streaming services for publishing live and archived video of committee activities. That will be a new activity this year.

Mr. BRADY. Good morning, Chairman, Ranking Member. Thank you for appearing in front of us today. I have no questions.

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. No questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. LOFGREN. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. This is relatively painless.

Mr. BRADY. You know, when we have no money to give extra, it is really painless. If we had some money to give out, we would be much more important.

Mr. CAMP. Thank you. I just also wanted to second what Sandy said, about how hard-working the staff is, in both preparing these documents, but also throughout the year. I do think we have folks

that are very dedicated to trying to do the people's business in the best way possible.

The CHAIRMAN. I appreciate that, and I appreciate the fact that we have received the documentation for the work that you do. We have got to prove to the American people that we are doing a good job, and that we are getting value out of the taxpayer dollars we are spending, and that is why we go through this exercise. Every committee has come before us having filled out the forms, given us the information, allowed us to go through it, and it is a situation this year where we are not in a position of looking at enhancing any budgets whatsoever. Everybody has come to us with a 5 percent cut, although I will say Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, actually came in with over a 10 percent cut, but that is because they had some additional funds they had to use last year for impeaching judges, and thus far we haven't found any judges we want to have come before us that way.

I thank both of you.

The CHAIRMAN. Good morning. Welcome to the chair and ranking member. We have your written submissions, if I can get to it, dealing with your personnel costs, oversight, other costs, consulting contracts and so forth. If you have written statements, they will be made part of the record. We would also like to hear from you. So you can tell us how well the two of you work together, and how well the committee is doing, and how you are going to manage with a 5 percent cut.

Ileana.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you very much, Chairman Lungren, thank you Ranking Member Brady and members of the committee for the opportunity for Howard and me to appear before you.

If we are to provide for our Nation's security, we must also be able to effectively address not just the immediate threats, but also learn from the developments such as the recent turmoil in the broader Middle East, prioritize our efforts toward preventing the emergence of future threats, and as our oversight plan denotes, we have a robust agenda planned for the 112th Congress to properly assess, develop and implement legislative strategies that are going to help us achieve those desired objectives.

We believe, given the sizable surplus the committee had last year, that we can accomplish this ambitious goal despite the reduced budget for this Congress. The budget of the Committee on Foreign Affairs reflects the 5 percent cut in spending from the combined 2-year total budget from last Congress, and it reflects the high esteem that I hold for my good friend, my colleague from California, Ranking Member Berman, and the respect for minority rights through a majority-minority distribution that better guarantees minority access to one-third of the committee's resources and provides the minority with an enhanced personnel budget allocation over which they have full control.

The committee's budget clearly illustrates a renewed emphasis on oversight, transparency and accountability by allocating greater resources for new media, investigative travel and field hearings.

The field hearings are also aimed at involving the American people more directly in the discussion of our U.S. foreign policy, our policy priorities, our international affairs budget.

In furtherance of this more responsive approach to the work we perform, the main committee Web site now has a new interactive feature called "Your Seat on the Dais," and we are changing it to "You Ask the Question," which is more direct. This feature allows members of the public to submit questions that they would like to have answered by the panelists who are appearing before us, and the committee will review the submissions, and some of the questions will be selected by our members, who will then ask the question on behalf of the submitter during the hearing. We tried that yesterday when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton appeared before our committee, and that worked well.

The majority staff now boasts an oversight and investigative team comprised of a chief counsel and two other full committee staff members, in addition to the staff of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. We have also instituted an oversight referral process similar to the legislative referral mechanism, and have added an interactive feature on our main committee Web site for whistleblowers to help us identify waste, fraud and abuse in the programs and the operations under the committee's areas of jurisdiction.

With respect to the House Democracy Partnership and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, which fall under the committee's jurisdiction, the travel and hearings of these two committees are now more closely coordinated with and integrated into the committee's activities. The committee budget reflects administrative costs for these two entities.

Salary for the two dedicated House staff members for the House Democracy Partnership are paid in full from the Republican majority salary allotment. In honoring the memory and legacy of our dear colleague and deceased past chairman of the committee, Tom Lantos, the Republican majority funds a designated staff position for Chairman Wolf on the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Further, with respect to interparliamentary groups, we are undertaking a rigorous review of the accounts of these IPGs and identifying excess funds towards returning them immediately to the Treasury. The American people are forced to make difficult choices to keep their fiscal house in order. We in turn need to focus on how to do more with less in the running of our respective committees and approach our review of programs, agencies and budgets under our jurisdiction with the same mind-set, doing more with less, and I believe that our funding resolution reflects this commitment.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Brady and members of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much for the presentation.

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

Statement of the Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Before the Committee on House Administration
11:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, 2010

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

If we are to provide for our nation's security, we must be able to effectively address, not just immediate threats, but also learn from such developments as the recent turmoil in the broader Middle East, and prioritize our efforts toward preventing the emergence of future threats.

As our Oversight Plan denotes, we have a robust agenda planned for the 112th Congress to properly assess, develop, and implement legislative strategies that will help achieve the desired objectives.

We believe, given the sizeable surplus the Committee had last year, that we can accomplish this ambitious agenda despite the reduced budget for this Congress.

The budget of the Committee on Foreign Affairs reflects the 5% cut in spending from the combined two-year total budget from last Congress.

It reflects the high esteem I hold for Ranking Member Berman and respect for Minority rights, through a majority/minority distribution that better guarantees Minority access to 1/3 of the Committee's resources and provides the Minority with an enhanced personnel budget allocation, over which they have full control.

The Committee's budget clearly illustrates a renewed emphasis on oversight, transparency, and accountability by allocating greater resources for:

- new media,
- investigative travel, and
- field hearings.

The field hearings are also aimed at involving the American people more directly in the discussions over foreign policy priorities and the international affairs budget.

In furtherance of a more responsive approach to the work we perform, the main Committee website now includes a new interactive feature called: "Your Seat on the Dais" (although, due to initial response, we are changing to "Ask the Question.")

This feature is allowing members of the public to submit questions that they would like to have answered by witnesses testifying before our Committee.

The Committee will review submissions and some of the questions will be selected by our Members, who will then ask the questions on behalf of the submitter during the hearing.

The Majority staff now boasts an Oversight and Investigations team comprised of a Chief Counsel and two other Full Committee staff members, in addition to the staff of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

We also have instituted an oversight referral process similar to the legislative referral mechanism and have added an interactive feature on the main Committee website for "whistleblowers" to help us identify waste, fraud, and abuse in the programs and operations under the Committee's areas of responsibility.

With respect to the House Democracy Partnership and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission which fall under the Committee's structure, the travel and hearings of these two Commissions are now more closely coordinated with and integrated into the Committee's activities.

The Committee budget reflects administrative costs for the two entities.

Salary for two dedicated staff members for the House Democracy Partnership are paid in full from the Republican Majority salary allotment.

Honoring the memory and legacy of our dear colleague and deceased past Chairman of the Committee, Tom Lantos, the Republican Majority funds a designated staff position for Chairman Wolf on the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Further, with respect to inter-parliamentary groups, we are undertaking a rigorous review of the accounts for these IPGs and identifying excess funds toward returning them immediately to the Treasury.

The American people are being forced to make difficult choices to keep their fiscal house in order.

We, in turn, need to focus on how to do more with less in the running of our respective committees and approach our review of programs, agencies, and budgets under our jurisdiction with the same mindset.

I believe our funding resolution reflects this commitment.

Thank you for your time.

The CHAIRMAN. Howard.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. BERMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and my thanks to both you and Ranking Member Brady and your staffs for the assistance they have provided to the minority staff of the Foreign Affairs Committee in all of this. I want to particularly thank not in the pro forma way we sometimes thank our colleagues, but particularly a really heartfelt thanks to our Chairman, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and to her staff director, Dr. Yleem Poblete, for really helping us to shape a budget request that I think is fair.

Switching from the majority to the minority is always difficult. I hear if it doesn't kill you, it makes you stronger, but it has been especially challenging as a result of the decision to reduce the budget from last year's number, as the chairman mentioned, and straight-line the budget into next year. But Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen has been very, very helpful in providing assistance that our staff needed to make the transition, and I do appreciate her generosity.

As was the case with the minority in previous Congresses, we anticipate coordinating well with the chair on receiving one-third of all nonpersonnel expenses in each expense category, travel, communications and equipment upgrades.

The chairman intends to hold a number of field hearings, which I think is a good idea, and I am hoping to be able to make as many as I can, and I look forward to working with her on a bipartisan basis. You can imagine in foreign affairs you have a range of issues, and we will have some differences, but on a bunch of the core issues, I think there is a basis for a bipartisan approach, and we want to work closely. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the funding resolution for our committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Berman follows:]

STATEMENT

BEFORE THE HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEEE

Representative HOWARD L. BERMAN
March 2, 2011

First, my thanks to Chairman Lungren and Ranking Member Brady, and also to your staff for the assistance provided to the minority staff on the Foreign Affairs Committee. I also want to thank my Chairman, Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, for her efforts and that of her Staff Director, Dr. Yleem Poblete, in helping to shape a budget request that is fair.

Mr. Chairman while switching from majority to minority is always difficult, it has been especially challenging as a result of the decision to reduce the budget from last year's numbers and straight line the budget into next year. Chairman Ros-Lehtinen has been very helpful this year in providing assistance that our staff needed to make the transition, and I greatly appreciate her generosity. As was the case with the minority in previous Congresses, we also anticipate coordinating well with the chairman on receiving one-third of all non-personnel expenses in each expense category, such as travel, communications, and equipment upgrades. I know that the chairman intends to hold a number of field hearings which I hope to be able to attend.

I look forward to working with her in a bipartisan manner on a wide range of issues in the 112th Congress, and I am pleased to have been able to cosponsor the funding resolution before your Committee.

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112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 112

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself and Mr. BERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

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

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $17,904,940.00 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $8,952,470.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $8,952,470.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

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

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

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

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The CHAIRMAN. These are public hearings, so some members of the American public get a chance to see what our committees do, and one of the areas of easy criticism is Members traveling overseas. I just returned on a congressional delegation headed up by one of your Members, Congressman Manzullo, and we were in New Zealand and Australia. And the refrain we heard from the members of the government there was, we don't see you people often enough. You are important players—that is, the United States—in this part of the world, particularly with the rise of China. We need to hear from you, we need to see you, we need to talk with you, you need to see what we have here.

It impressed on me the need that we have for visits of this Congress with Members of Parliament and the governments in countries like that, and it was very obvious they thought it was important that we are there. They are both small, but very important allies.

Maybe you could talk about, even with the 5 percent, what your committee plans to do with respect to that kind of thing. You mentioned the interparliamentary groups and any excess funds going back to the Treasury. But why do we have those, what do you anticipate doing this year, and how do you do it majority to minority?

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Well, we have a very good working relationship, as you can surmise from our presentation here. We help set up the bipartisan part of the trips. And Members are interested in all hosts of issues, as Howard pointed out. In certain areas there is more interest than others because of their home districts.

I know in your trip, Mr. Chairman, you left that area just 2 hours, 2½ hours before that devastating earthquake. So that was an incredible experience. We have heard from Mr. Manzullo when he came back from the trip, he tells us about the positive and the negative aspects of the trip.

As you know, the funding comes from the State Department budget itself, but we help coordinate the travel, we make sure that there is representation from both parties and the staff is present, so we provide the working staff to help facilitate the meeting. So we help in all kinds of coordination of the travel arrangements and the monies that come from the State Department budget.

But as of now we have had no difficulty. There have been no problems. Members are not making any outrageous requests. They know that this is not the same kind of economic environment as before, so they are cognizant of that, and no one is making any requests that would be outlandish.

We are dealing with these interparliamentary groups where other Members outside of our committee are very involved, and we want to make sure that we bring down the cost of those in every opportunity that we can.

So, more with less, that is our mantra, and that includes trips as well.

The CHAIRMAN. Ranking Member Berman, you might be interested to know in our conversations with the parliamentary leaders in both countries, we raised the issue of intellectual property; that there were efforts afoot in both of those countries to attack the notion of intellectual property as we understand it here that would put American businesses in jeopardy. There is a proposal before the

New Zealand Parliament to basically get rid of IP protection for software development.

In Australia, they were considering changing a packaging law with respect to tobacco by way of basically getting rid of the trademark protection. We indicated to them that we understood what they were doing in the area of tobacco, but to utilize the destruction of intellectual property rights as the manner to do it would be devastating for developments in the future, and that it was unacceptable as far as we were concerned as Members of Congress. Very interesting. It seemed to get their attention. And when they realized we had a bipartisan group there, and that we agreed on this, their response was, we better go back to the drawing board and take a look at it.

Now, I don't know what the final resolution is going to be, but it was very interesting in a timely fashion, just discussing issues of interest between our countries, we raised an issue that was extremely important to our economy.

Mr. BERMAN. Well, this doesn't surprise me. I could spend a great deal of your time, but I won't, giving specific examples of how specific congressional delegations have ended up making a difference on both security issues and on economic issues in terms of America's interests. During my 3 years as chair, I had an opportunity to lead four different CODELs with my then-ranking member and current chair.

We went to Afghanistan and Pakistan on a very quick, but fascinating and educational trip. On another one that you remember, we went to India and Pakistan. We took a trip to four countries in Africa and then went to China and Taiwan and South Korea. On the issue of the intellectual property, in Taiwan they had done some important advances in their intellectual property protection, but had sort of ignored the area of digital, and we raised issues with of the leadership of the Legislature in Taiwan, and the result was they took actions to sort of fill that void, a direct consequence being to the benefit of a lot of U.S. intellectual property owners in terms of doing business in Taiwan.

I think it is an essential part of what we do. I think these parliamentary groups done right, avoiding the excesses and carefully oversighted and controlled, as the committee is doing now, are helpful to American interests.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. Brady.

Mr. BRADY. Just to thank the chairlady and ranking member for being here today. I have no questions. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. We obviously are having to do more with of less, and, of course, looking at the numbers for your committee, you know the numbers from the 110th to the 111th was it looks like about an 8.4 percent increase. So the number we have now with this 5 percent decrease is still more than you had during the 110th. Money still is tight, we know, through this term.

If we get to the 113th and we see we have to scale back even more, is this something that you feel like you can figure out a way to make work?

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Absolutely we can. If asked to do it again and to cut further, we can, and we're able to do it in a way that is fair to the majority and minority.

Mr. HARPER. Okay. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. Just thank you both for your incredible efforts. In terms of travel, I know that it is important, and you bear the brunt of that burden because of your committee assignments, and the rest of us who don't have to go do that appreciate your willingness to represent our country in that way.

I do have a question about security in the interparliamentary groups. The per diems never go up, so the accommodations degrade in terms of the cost. That is okay in terms of where you stay, but it is not okay in terms of the security issues. I want to make sure if we are sending people off on these missions, which is important, that we have got adequate attention to their security. Sometimes the security provided by a host country may be a little iffy.

Can you address that?

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Yes, and you are so right about that. As the allotment stays the same or goes down, it means that the places that you stay may not have the sufficient security that we would need or would like to have. But we coordinate the security not necessarily through the host countries, but through our embassy and through their diplomatic channels, so they are always aware of where we are and what our needs are, and they are very accommodating to any particular situation.

In Pakistan, obviously, that is more of a problematic country, so we are allotted more protection. In other countries you don't have that security risk. But we coordinate with the diplomatic posts, our U.S. diplomats on the ground, and we have not run into any difficulties as of now.

Ms. LOFGREN. I would say, Mr. Chairman, if that becomes an issue for the committee, I, for one, would welcome being told about it, because I think if we are going to ask our Members to go off and do this for our country, we need to make sure they are safe when they do so.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Rokita.

Mr. ROKITA. I have a quick, but, to be quite honest with of you, it is kind of a substitute question. So to avoid rebuke from my chairman and ranking member, I am going to put it in the form of a budget question.

It is about H1Bs. We have an immigration issue that we talk about, but we have one that we don't talk about. In my district we have Purdue and IU, and we spend a great deal of money educating students, only to send them out of our country so they can become millionaires in their homeland. I would like to keep these folks.

Does your budget anticipate tackling this issue? I haven't been able to confer with you guys on the floor.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I will let Howard take care of that because he is on Judiciary and has dealt with this for so long.

Mr. BERMAN. I would love to tackle that issue because I think our current situation is crazy from our economic security point of

view. The students who are coming and getting postgraduate degrees in sciences and computer science and so many areas that could be of tremendous benefit, because of our current immigration laws aren't—even though they would like to—aren't able to take the kinds of employment here that would take that education and return it for their benefit, but also for the benefit of American companies. But I have a feeling that were I to tackle that, there would be at least two people on this committee who would say, that is Judiciary Committee.

Mr. ROKITA. Okay. Fair enough.

Mr. BERMAN. But I think there is a responsive—there are people who are quite responsive to the issue you have raised on this committee and on the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. ROKITA. I will yield back to the chair.

The CHAIRMAN. All I can say is that the gentlelady from California and I have worked with the gentleman from California for many years on this, and we would be happy to enlist additional support.

Ms. LOFGREN. Absolutely. We have a bill in circulation right now. We will see you after the meeting.

Mr. BERMAN. This is a good opportunity.

The CHAIRMAN. Cosponsorships are available at no cost.

Mr. Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. I have no questions.

The CHAIRMAN. I want to thank both of you for appearing before us and outlining your intentions and the spirit of bipartisanship that you have expressed, and also explaining somewhat on the record why it is important that you do what you do and how it benefits the people that we serve here.

Thank you very much.

This is great. We have the Rules Committee coming 5 minutes early. Mr. Dreier, always the gentleman. That is very nice.

Mr. DREIER. Not always.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Yes, he is.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I won't ask Ms. Slaughter for a comment on that.

Thank both of you for coming before us. This is the regular procedure to consider the budget requests of the various committees before we offer the omnibus budget resolution. We all are aware of the 5 percent that was mandated by the resolution passed on the floor of the House, the first order of business that we did. We do have your written submissions as to personnel requirements, oversight responsibilities and other costs and your statements, but we are very much interested in hearing from you directly.

So, Mr. Dreier.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. DAVID DREIER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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

Let me begin, with all due respect to Mr. Brady, saying how much I really enjoy this shift here, and it is nice to see Mr. Lungren with the gavel. And to Mr. Harper and my California colleague Ms. Lofgren, with whom I have worked on H1B visas, and

Sheriff Nugent, a member of the Rules Committee, it is great to be here with my distinguished colleague Ms. Slaughter.

The request before you continues the tradition of lean funding that has characterized the Rules Committee in the past during majorities of both parties, but will still allow us to perform our critical institutional role during the months and the years ahead.

This marks my fifth appearance before this committee as chairman of the Committee on Rules. The Rules Committee is both traffic cop and first responder. We assist the Speaker in moving the routine business of the majority as fairly as we possibly can, while at the same time standing ready to respond in the event of unforeseen circumstances. This makes serving on the Rules Committee, as Sheriff Nugent can attest, simultaneously rewarding and challenging.

More than any other standing committee, our members and staff must be agile to respond to our difficulties endemic to running a majority. The budget that our ranking member Ms. Slaughter and I have submitted allows us to maintain our ability to meet these challenges, while recognizing that all committees must do their part to control spending.

We are requesting a total budget authority of approximately $6.8 million, divided equally between this year and next. Because the committee has been very judicious in its budget request in the past, this request is $357,000 less than the committee received in the last Congress, and even about $69,000 less than the committee received in the 110th Congress. This reflects a 5 percent reduction from our level granted for the 111th Congress.

Just over 90 percent of our requested funds goes to personnel compensation. The remainder is designated for needed equipment, supplies and services.

Mr. Chairman, this Congress marks an important turning point in the Rules Committee's minority/majority relationship. While in the past the minority has controlled a full one-third of the personnel compensation budget along with a third of the staff slots, this year marks the first time that the minority will be given full control over one-third of the entire budget.

While there have not generally been issues in the past with the minority receiving funding for needed services or equipment, this change grants the minority a level of autonomy that neither party has previously enjoyed. Now, in the Madisonian spirit of recognition of minority rights, I believe that this is a very important change that is long overdue.

Even with the cuts we made compared to past years, we are still funding our important priorities. As we promised in the Pledge to America, we have opened the deliberations of the Rules Committee to anyone with an Internet connection.

With of the assistance of the Chief Administrative Officer and the Clerk, we now Webcast every hearing and meeting of the committee, and we maintain archives of those recordings on our Website. We are involved in a pilot program with the same vendor that provides the services to the Clerk's HouseLive Program. While we understand that the CAO is looking into a broader contract with a vendor for all committees, we will continue working with him individually until that contract is in place.

Separately, I have asked your committee to fund the permanent installation of audio and video broadcast equipment in our hearing room. This will improve the quality of our broadcasts and allow the CAO to redeploy the equipment he has loaned the committee to other uses.

We are continuing development of the CORE database and workflow automation tool. This custom software was started during the 109th Congress and was significantly improved during the last 4 years. We will be focusing on improving the usability of the system as well as extending its capabilities to integrate it more tightly in our Website.

We are continuing our efforts to improve transparency. We have started posting the text of bills and resolutions in the House standard XML format on our Website. We intend to work closely with the Office of Legislative Counsel and Office of the Clerk to enable the posting of committee reports and amendments in this more flexible format as well.

It is also important to note that the Rules Committee Website is serving as the official repository for the text of all legislation to be considered on the House floor until your committee designates another official location for these documents.

In all, I believe that this is a very fair budget, Mr. Chairman. It maintains our history of wisely using our resources and providing the House with a very favorable return on its investment.

I am happy to take any questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

[The statement of Mr. Dreier follows:]

Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515-6269

Statement of David Dreier
Chairman, Committee on Rules

Before the Committee on House Administration

March 1, 2011

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee, I am pleased to appear today in support of the 112th Congress funding request of the Committee on Rules. The request before you continues the tradition of lean funding that has characterized the Rules Committee in the past during majorities of both parties, but will still allow us to perform our critical institutional role during the months and years ahead.

THE RULES COMMITTEE IS A REWARDING, BUT DIFFICULT, ASSIGNMENT

This marks my fifth appearance before this Committee as Chairman of the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee is both traffic cop and first responder: we assist the Speaker in moving the routine business of the Majority efficiently and fairly, while at the same time standing ready to respond in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

This makes serving on the Rules Committee simultaneously rewarding and challenging. More than any other standing committee, our Members and staff must be agile to respond to the difficulties endemic to running a majority. The budget that my ranking member, Ms. Slaughter, and I have submitted allows us to maintain our ability to meet those challenges while recognizing that all committees must do their part to control spending.

THE 112TH CONGRESS BUDGET REQUEST

We are requesting total budget authority of approximately $6.8 million divided equally between this year and next. Because the Committee has been very judicious in its budget requests in the past, this request is $357,000 less than the Committee received in the last congress, and even about $69,000 less than the Committee received in the 110th Congress. This reflects a 5 percent reduction from our level granted for the 111th Congress.

Just over 90 percent of our requested funds go to personnel compensation. The remainder is designated for needed equipment, supplies, and services.

THE MINORITY WILL RECEIVE A FULL 1/3 SHARE OF THE BUDGET

This Congress marks an important turning point in the Rules Committee's Minority-Majority relationship. While in the past, the minority has controlled a full 1/3 of the personnel compensation budget, along with a third of the staff slots, this year marks the first time that the Minority will be given full control over one-third of the entire budget. While there have not generally been issues in the past with the Minority receiving funding for needed services or equipment, this change grants the Minority a level of autonomy that neither party has previously enjoyed. It is an important change, and one that is long overdue.

WHILE LEAN, THIS BUDGET FUNDS IMPORTANT PRIORITIES

Even with the cuts we made compared to past years, we are still funding important priorities:

- **Webcasting.** As we promised in the Pledge to America, we have opened the deliberations of the Rules Committee to anyone with an Internet connection. With the assistance of the Chief Administrative Officer and the Clerk, we now webcast every hearing and meeting of the committee, and maintain archives of those recordings on our website. We are involved in a pilot program with the same vendor that provides services to the Clerk's HouseLive program. While we understand that the CAO is looking into a broader contract with the vendor for all committees, we will continue working with them individually until that contract is in place.

  Separately, I have asked this committee to fund the permanent installation of audio and video broadcast equipment in our hearing room. This will improve the quality of our broadcasts, and allow the CAO to redeploy the equipment he has loaned the committee to other uses.

- **Automation Tools.** We are continuing development of the CORE database and workflow automation tool. This custom software was started during the 109th Congress, and was significantly improved during the last four years. We will be focusing on improving the usability of the system, as well as extending its capabilities to integrate it more tightly with our website.

- **Transparency.** We are continuing our efforts to improve transparency. We have started posting the text of bills and resolutions in the House-standard XML format on our website. We intend to work closely with the Office of Legislative Counsel and the Office of the Clerk to enable the posting of committee reports and amendments in this more flexible format as well.

  It is also important to note that the Rules Committee's website is serving as the official repository for text of legislation to be considered on the House floor until

the Committee on House Administration designates another official location for those documents.

CONCLUSION

In all, I believe that this is a fair budget request. It maintains our history of wisely using our resources and providing the House a favorable return on its investment.

Thank you, and I stand ready to answer any questions you may have.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Slaughter.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. LOUISE SLAUGHTER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to be here with you this morning, Ranking Member Brady and other members of the committee. It is a pleasure to appear before you today with Chairman Dreier to discuss the budget request for the Committee on Rules. We fully support the majority's budget request, which Mr. Dreier has already laid out to you. I think it is important to note that the Rules Committee, in spite of its sometimes partisan outward image, is really one of the most collegial committees in the House with regard to day-to-day activities.

Mr. Dreier and I share the unique honor of having served as both chair and ranking member of our committee. As such, we share a unique insight into the challenges facing both the majority and the minority roles, whether it will be handling one of our infamous late-night meetings or, more to the point this afternoon, addressing the work of the committee.

With regard to the specifics of the 112th Congress, I want to express my full support for the chairman's request to reduce the committee's funding—should I start over?

Mr. DREIER. No. This microphone is very sensitive. You don't even need a microphone. We can all hear you.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. It was such a shock. Suddenly this Southern voice comes out of this New York woman.

Mr. DREIER. It is not sudden. It has been going on for a while.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. That was really quite stunning, to hear that expressed that loudly.

Anyway, with regard to specifics of the 112th Congress, I want to express my full support for the chairman's request to reduce the funding by 5 percent. These are tough economic times. And even if Mr. Dreier and I sometimes disagree on the best approach, it is clear that we must tackle this ever-growing budget deficit. We need to start by setting an example and cutting our own budgets, and this request does just that. I am confident that the funds that Mr. Dreier has requested will be spent wisely and effectively by both the majority and minority.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the majority for allowing the practice of many other committees of giving the minority control over one-third of the committee's budget for the 112th Congress. In the past, the Rules Committee majority has controlled the entire budget except staff salary. In practice, the majority, whether controlled by Democrats or Republicans, has administered the committee in a collegial, nonpartisan manner. We appreciate the majority's decision to formalize that tradition in this year's request.

As we begin the 112th Congress, I am pleased to see the majority's continued expanding of the transparency initiatives that we have started in the last 4 years. We both share the commitment to ensuring that the American people have up-to-the-minute access, and as ranking member I look forward to working with Chairman

Dreier to continue to make the committee transparent, fair and responsible.

Thank you.

[The statement of Ms. Slaughter follows:]

Rules Ranking Member Louise Slaughter Statement to House Administration Mar. 1 2011

Thank you Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady and Members of the Committee. It is a pleasure to appear in front of you today with Chairman Dreier to discuss the budget request for the Committee on Rules. We fully support the majority's budget request, which Mr. Dreier has laid out for you this afternoon.

I think it's important to note that the Rules Committee – despite its sometimes partisan outward image – is really one of the most collegial committees in the House with regard to its day-to-day activities.

Mr. Dreier and I share the unique honor of having served as both the chair and ranking member of our committee. As such we share a unique insight into the challenges facing both the majority and minority roles, whether it be handling one of our infamous late-night meetings or, more to our point this afternoon, addressing the administrative work of the committee.

With regard to the specifics of the 112th Congress, I want to express my full support for the Chairman's request to reduce the Committee's funding by 5 percent. These are tough economic times. And even if Mr. Dreier and I sometimes disagree on the best approach, it is clear that we must tackle this ever-growing budget deficit. We need to start by setting an example and cutting our own budgets, and this request does just that. I am confident that the funds Mr. Dreier has requested will be spent wisely and effectively by both the majority and minority.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the majority for following the practice of many other committees in giving the minority control over 1/3 of the committee's budget for the 112th Congress.

In the past, the Rules Committee majority has controlled the entire budget except staff salary. In practice, the majority – whether controlled by Democrats or Republicans – has administered the committee in a collegial, non-partisan manner. But we appreciate the majority's decision to formalize that tradition in this year's request.

As we begin the 112th Congress, I am pleased to see that the majority is continuing and expanding the transparency initiatives that we set in motion over the last four years. We both share the commitment to ensuring that the American people have up-to-the-minute access to the work of our committee. As Ranking Member, I look forward to working with Chairman Dreier to continue to make our committee transparent, fair and responsible.

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 110

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

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

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RESOLUTION

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

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Rules (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $6,783,970 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

1 (1) not more than $3,391,985 shall be available
2 for expenses incurred during the period beginning at
3 noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately
4 before noon on January 3, 2012; and
5 (2) not more than $3,391,985 shall be available
6 for expenses incurred during the period beginning at
7 noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately
8 before noon on January 3, 2013.

9 **SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.**

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

14 **SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.**

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

○

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, both of you.

First of all, I appreciate the fact that now you have a one-third/two-thirds split across the board, and I hope that will be the tradition in the future, where it is formalized, as was suggested by the ranking member.

Secondly, when you appeared before us either last year or the year before, we had the discussion over cameras in the Rules Committee room, and I am glad that you moved forward on that, and that now those hearings are more accessible to the public-at-large on a continual and regular basis. I think that is a step forward.

Mr. DREIER. I would like to note for the record, Mr. Chairman, that our first hearing was only a 12-hour hearing following installation of those cameras.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand that, and I am sure after some people take the makeup off and so forth, they will find out maybe they don't have to say as many words, and that is both members of the committee and witnesses.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Lungren, may I say as well, we did always allow for cameras at our meeting. We allowed whatever requests were made. C–SPAN and other credentialed media were specifically invited and encouraged to attend. We take transparency very seriously. We made transcripts available for everybody to review, not just Members and the press.

We customarily held our meetings at 3 or 5 p.m. to maximize attendance and accessibility. We reserved one-third of all hearing room seats for the press to improve the ease of coverage. And all relevant committee reports were posted on the Website to make them more accessible to the public.

This year the majority decided to install permanent cameras rather than rely on the independent media. As ranking member, I am happy that has been done. We set some responsible guidelines, however. Our rule on our side, which was unanimously adopted, ensures coverage of every meeting in full, and that proceedings are archived to be made available via the Internet.

So I remain ready to work with the chairman on transparency.

The CHAIRMAN. I appreciate that very much. Having been here in two different tours, it has always amazed me that one of the most important committees in the entire Congress has one of the smallest hearing rooms.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Isn't that amazing? Completely airless, too.

The CHAIRMAN. And airless.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. No circulation of any sort.

The CHAIRMAN. I happen to have been here long enough ago to actually have been on the floor the first day that C–SPAN started filming, and I remember the remarkable change it made, I happen to think for the better, that people around the country were able to, at the moment things were happening in the House, to be able to observe it without having to come here and sit in our galleries. I have always thought we ought to extend that as much as possible. That is why I thank your committee for making permanent that setting.

Mr. DREIER. Well, you are right, Mr. Chairman. Let me say the Rules Committee up until this point was the only committee in the Congress, save the Ethics Committee and Intelligence Committee,

for obvious reasons, that did not have full gavel-to-gavel television coverage made available. So I am happy we have been able to do that.

The CHAIRMAN. I am not trying to start a fight. I applaud you for making progress.

Mr. DREIER. No, no, I just want to say that in support of the ranking member.

The CHAIRMAN. Indeed. Thanks very much.

Mr. Brady.

Mr. BRADY. No, just to thank the chairman and ranking member for being here. I appreciate all the good work you do.

One real quick comment. I have meetings myself in a different capacity, being the chairman of the party in the city of Philadelphia, and I have them in the smallest, hottest room. People don't want to stay there that long. Maybe it is a good idea you are a small room.

Mr. DREIER. Just to expand on that, I will tell you when I went on to the Rules Committee in 1990, David Broder, the dean of the press corps with the Washington Post, said to me that the Rules Committee is small by design. He said it is to keep us out.

So we are trying to bring about a change in that.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I would like to make one more point about frugality, David. The chairs we sit in in the Rules Committee were purchased in 1967. Chairs have changed a lot since then, but we never thought we should spend the money to buy new ones. We want to say we are doing our part up there to save money.

Mr. DREIER. I never gave that any thought.

The CHAIRMAN. Keep them a little longer. They will qualify as antiques.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. You do if your legs are shorter.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. I just want to thank both of you for doing a thankless job, and appreciate the efforts to do more with less. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. Thank you to both of you for your service and all of those long meetings. It is not something the rest of us envy, but we do appreciate your service. It is terrific.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. One of us.

Mr. DREIER. One of those long-suffering Rules Committee members.

Mr. NUGENT. I always love it. We talk about nonpartisanship, and we have an issue rather quickly. But the good part is that actually the budget for the Rules Committee is less than the 110th Congress, and that is a phenomenal position to be in. I am glad to see that you both can sit at the same table. There are times, obviously, in the Rules Committee that it gets a little contentious. I won't say it is totally—it is partisan, but it is important work. I didn't realize the chairs were as old, but after 12 hours, I will tell you, I don't care what chair we had, it would be old.

But I appreciate both of your service on that committee, and obviously having sat on it now just for a short period of time, I truly do appreciate all that every person that serves on that committee does.

Mr. DREIER. Thank you very much, Mr. Nugent, for your great service on the committee as well.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank both of you. I appreciate your work, and thank you for your submissions.

All right, the committee now welcomes Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

We received your submissions, written submissions, on the oversight plan, the issues you are dealing with, your personnel costs and other costs, and so forth, and we examined those. If you have prepared statements, they will be made part of the record. We look forward to hearing from both of you.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. FRED UPTON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. UPTON. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a prepared statement. I am not going to read it. I am just going to say that not only are we early——

The CHAIRMAN. We appreciate that.

Mr. UPTON. We are better than on time, but we are also complying with the 5 percent cut from the last Congress. It has been tough, I will confess that. Not only did we expand our number of subcommittees from five to six from the last couple of years, it is also very difficult, as we find, to compete for great staff. And I am so fortunate that we have done very well. But when you look downtown and first-year law students can make $150,000 without knowing anything, we are a little bit under the gun in that respect. But Mr. Harper knows, because he has firsthand knowledge of the key folks that we have, being a member of our committee, we have done very well. But we have complied with the budget request and appreciate your leadership.

I yield to my friend and ranking member, Mr. Waxman.

[The statement of Mr. Upton follows:]

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
THE HONORABLE FRED UPTON
CHAIRMAN
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

BEFORE

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION
MARCH 2, 2011

Budget Request for the Committee on Energy and Commerce
For the 112th Congress

Written Testimony of the Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce

112th Congress Budget Request

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of the Committee on Energy and Commerce's budget request for the 112th Congress. We provided our formal written request to you late last week, so I'll keep my remarks brief.

I am pleased to report that we have submitted a budget that includes a 5% reduction from our funding in the last Congress. Our budget is therefore consistent with that same across-the-board cut in H.J. Res. 22, and I hope shows our commitment to deficit reduction.

And government spending is going to be one of the most important focuses of our work this Congress. Two of the programs that will serve as the battleground for long-term fiscal responsibility – Medicare and Medicaid – are in Energy and Commerce's primary jurisdiction, as is the implementation of Obamacare. We are already hard at work looking at these – we had an excellent panel of governors in yesterday for a full Committee hearing, and tomorrow Secretary Sebelius will be testifying.

We face similar hard work in all the areas of our jurisdiction, including climate change and the environment, energy, telecommunications, and consumer protection. The Obama administration has been one of the most activist in recent memory. The new Republican majority in the House

has a responsibility to provide a check and balance on those policies.

To do that, Mr. Chairman, we need highly qualified, experienced staff. Like you, I have been fortunate enough to lure some seasoned veterans of Capitol Hill back into public service for my Chairmanship. We cannot compensate these individuals at anything approaching their value in the private sector. And even for junior people, we really cannot offer any real competition -- first year lawyers at K Street law firms – lawyers, yes, but perhaps not the most skilled attorneys in the land – are receiving salaries upwards of $150,000 per year.

We cannot compete financially, but we have to do what we can.

In addition to personnel costs, my Committee will be extraordinarily busy this year. In fact, I have expanded our work into six separate subcommittees to spread out the work. We anticipate a number of field hearings throughout the year. We will also continue our effort to remain as close to cutting edge on our use of technology as we can.

Mr. Chairman, again, we are willing to live within the spirit and the letter of the 5% cut in committee budgets for the 112th Congress. We can of course use more resources, and I can assure you that any additional money given to Energy and Commerce will be used to ensure that we have the most highly qualified people to get the job done. To the extent that there is any reallocation of Committee spending, I simply ask you to keep us in mind.

Again, I thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify today, and of course will be happy to answer any questions.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brady, Members, I am pleased to be here today to express to you that Chairman Upton and his staff have worked with us in a collegial manner in preparing this budget. I support this proposal and believe it is fair toward the committee minority.

As you know, our committee has broad jurisdiction. We have a lot to do. I want to be sure that we get the implementation of the comprehensive health reform law. The Republicans want to take the time to repeal that law. We need good staff on both sides on that issue. We also need to deal with other responsibilities on other matters.

I would urge you to consider increasing the committee's funding by reallocating some of the funds that went to the Select Committee on Global Warming to our committee. The Energy and Commerce Committee has primary responsibility in the House for examining the public health and energy security issues posed by global warming and greenhouse gas emissions. The chairman and I may have different perspectives on these issues, but we fully agree that the committee should be spearheading a close review of this subject. Some additional resources from the funds from the select committee would not increase the overall amount of committee funding, but it would help us do our job for the American people.

So I support the efforts of the chair and urge you to support our budget.

[The statement of Mr. Waxman follows:]

Statement before the Committee on House Administration
Funding for the Committee on Energy and Commerce
112th Congress
Henry Waxman, Ranking Member
March 2, 2011

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and other members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the proposed budget for the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the 112th Congress. I am pleased to be here with the Committee Chairman, Fred Upton.

Chairman Upton and his staff have worked with me and my staff in a collegial manner in preparing this budget. I support this proposal and believe it is fair toward the Committee minority. The proposal you see continues the approach on majority/minority allocation of the budget that I used when Chairman of the Committee, with the minority receiving one-third of the Committee's funds.

As you know, the Committee on Energy and Commerce has jurisdiction over subjects with broad impact on public welfare, health, and the economy. We have responsibility for

overseeing implementation of the comprehensive health reform law to increase access to affordable care for Americans, making sure our food and drugs are safe, and ensuring the effectiveness of Medicaid and much of Medicare. We also have broad responsibility for the nation's energy and environment policy, the nation's telecommunications policy, and the nation's consumer protection laws.

The Committee has a heavy workload and requires expert staff to meet these responsibilities. For these reasons I support the Chairman's request for the full amount of funds allowed under H. Res. 22. In fact, I think we are underfunded.

That is why I would urge you to consider increasing the Committee's funding by reallocating some of the funds that went to the Select Committee on Global Warming to the Committee. The Energy and Commerce Committee has primary responsibility in the House for examining the public health and energy security issues posed by global warming and greenhouse gas emissions. The Chairman and I may have different perspectives on these issues but we fully agree that the

Committee should be spearheading a close review of these subjects. Some additional resources from the funds from the Select Committee would not increase the overall amount of committee funding, but it would help us do our job for the American people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

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IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 146

Providing the amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2011

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

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RESOLUTION

Providing the amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR THE COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Energy and Commerce (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $22,409,582 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $10,980,940 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $11,428,642 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

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

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

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

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The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Chairman, can you tell us, do you share jurisdictional responsibility over EPA with the Science Committee, or is that not in your bailiwick?

Mr. UPTON. We would like to think not. Actually though, to be completely serious, John Shimkus chairs the Environment and Economy Subcommittee, and what we did on our side, and I am the former ranking member of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee, and we split the jurisdiction of that former subcommittee into two subcommittees. Ed Whitfield now runs the Energy and Power Subcommittee, the name it was back in the 1970s, 1980s and some of the 1990s, and John Shimkus runs the Environment and Economy separately.

Mr. WAXMAN. But the chair is asking a different question between our committee and another committee, Natural Resources.

Mr. UPTON. No, he said Science.

The CHAIRMAN. Look, I know it is controversial on both sides on EPA. I just want to know whether we have got committees that are going to do the oversight of EPA so we can answer some of the questions that are being asked of us by our constituents.

Mr. WAXMAN. We have the primary responsibility for the regulatory parts of EPA when it comes to clean air, and if we were doing something on greenhouse gas emissions, it would legislatively come out of our committee. Other committees share part of the jurisdiction, Natural Resources, Science Committee.

The CHAIRMAN. My question is, in terms of oversight, is your committee prepared to do the oversight on EPA so that at least—and I know it is contentious, but my point is, I would like to be able to answer my constituents who ask me questions about EPA, what are you guys doing, what are they doing. I would like to know as part of your oversight responsibilities, do you take that as a charge, and with the 5 percent cut, are you going to be able to do that so we can have the kind of data presented to us as a result of oversight by your committee and other committees that we can make some intelligent decisions?

Mr. UPTON. The quick answer is yes. In fact, we have Lisa Jackson coming. The Administrator of the EPA is coming again to testify this Friday, I believe. Next Friday.

The CHAIRMAN. Then the other question I would have is I have looked back at committees and what they have not spent in the past. Your committee in the past has pretty much had to expend all of your resources. So when you take a 5 percent hit, that might be more difficult than some other committees.

How were you able to achieve your 5 percent—I am not suggesting we have any more money, but I would just like to know, where did you go to achieve your 5 percent cut?

Mr. UPTON. Well, since I did not have a role in last year's budget, as being only a ranking member on a subcommittee, we have made it work. We took the traditional balance between staff, between majority and minority, something that has been around for a long, long time, but we were able to come up with a 5 percent cut.

We have added some technology to our committee from before. There are some things that still don't work. We had microphones not work yesterday in one of our hearing rooms. We have been able to tighten our belt and make it work.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Waxman.

Mr. WAXMAN. Yes. If we this trend of cutting the committee budget continues, I think we would face significant staffing gaps. We need to oversee health care reform, and move forward on energy independence, food safety, safe drinking water and other important initiatives under our jurisdiction that are critical to the health and welfare of our citizens and national economy. If anything, we need more money to help ensure that we can conduct thorough review of the laws under our jurisdiction and ensure that programs are operating that minimize waste, fraud and abuse.

So, I am not endorsing the 5 percent cut. I think we have a lot to do, and that 5 percent cut would make it harder for us to do our job.

The CHAIRMAN. As I understand it, Chairman Upton, you still have 122 slots on your committee?

Mr. UPTON. I believe that that is correct.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand the difficulty everybody has, but by my count, that is the highest of any committee in the House right now. I know we can all find ways to spend our money effectively, I guess, is what some would say, but we are under the crunch to work with this 5 percent cut, and I appreciate the fact that you both have worked on that and that you have, I guess, the one-third/two-third split, majority to minority.

Mr. Brady.

Mr. BRADY. Just to thank the chairman and the ranking member for being here, and thank you for your courtesy. There are a few incidents where I had constituents from the city of Philadelphia had to come in front of you. You were most courteous and fair, and I appreciate that.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is indeed an honor to serve with you——

Mr. UPTON. How did you get that waiver? That is what I want to ask.

Mr. HARPER. I don't know how that happened. But I do want to say on the issue of the funding with the 5 percent cut, keep in mind that from the 110th to 111th, that was a 12 percent increase in funding, and even at the level we are now, you are still almost $1.4 million over the 110th level. So money is tight. We are all having to do more with less.

Is this something—if we get to the 113th Congress, and we realize that we are still having to cut, do you foresee the ability to trim back even more than the 5 percent we are doing this year?

Mr. UPTON. We will obey the rules of the House and what is there. We have been able to accommodate the vote that we had back in January on the second day that we were in session, and I know, and you know, too, that we have a very talented staff. When you look at the share of the budget that goes to the staff, they help us do our work on both sides.

We have a very talented staff, and I know under the budget constraints, we will probably have some difficulty in keeping them all. I never want them to go away. They are great people. But at some point they are likely to depart because of higher salaries, and that

is the dilemma that we will be in. We look at so many issues before our committee, knowing we have jurisdiction over certainly now the energy costs that are there, but the health care costs, telecommunications, commerce, manufacturing and trade, the oversight responsibility that we have. It is tough to lure folks sometimes as we did from the private sector coming to work for the committee, and we are very glad of the leadership that I have on our top committee staffs that we are able to do that.

Mr. HARPER. Can you meet your oversight responsibilities with the current budget?

Mr. UPTON. I believe we can. I am confident with this budget we can do our job.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Schock.

Mr. SCHOCK. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. That is it.

Mr. UPTON. On time and under budget.

The CHAIRMAN. On time and under budget, and out of here early. Thank you.

All right. Thank you for being here early. We are actually moving through rather well, and we appreciate you working with us on that.

The committee now welcomes Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member Markey of the Committee on Natural Resources. We have the voluminous information that you have supplied us with in terms of your oversight plan, your answers to funding questions, personnel and other things. If you have a prepared statement, we would make that part of the record, but we are anxiously awaiting your oral testimony.

I am not going to say what the ranking member just said a moment ago. Would you like to say that?

No. Okay. All right.

Doc Hastings, thanks very much.

Mr. BRADY. Only that I know I won't rob a bank. But you know more.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. DOC HASTINGS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Mr. HASTINGS. When I hear you say you are anxiously awaiting my statement, I reflect on what my dad used to say: Are you sure you are lying?

Since my full statement will appear in the record, I will just simply say the budget request we submitted to you reflects the 5 percent reduction. We can certainly live with that.

From a staff standpoint, we are mirroring essentially what we did last year when Chairman Rahall and I were here, as far as the allocation of staff. We have, I think, six staff that are nonpartisan that do all the administrative work, and we divide the rest by two-thirds to one-third. That has worked very well on the Resources Committee in the past, and we mirror that again.

The one area that the budget does reflect is a slight decrease in travel. I am not going to say that is problematic, but I think with the idea that we need more oversight, the Congress needs more oversight in a variety of areas, I am not going to say it is going to be problematic, because we certainly are going to live with that.

Finally, I will simply say while I know my distinguished ranking member and I will probably have violent disagreements on policy, we agree that this is the proper way to fund our committee, and we look forward to working together at least in that respect.

But now, unless Ed wants to say he is going to agree with me and have an epiphany because I am the chairman, I fully accept that, too. But in case that doesn't, we will work certainly in a bipartisan way as far as administration of our committee is concerned.

With that, I will yield back my time.

[The statement of Mr. Hastings follows:]

TESTIMONY OF
THE HONORABLE DOC HASTINGS (R-WA)
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
112TH CONGRESS COMMITTEE FUNDING REQUEST
March 2, 2011

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing my colleague and Ranking Member, Ed Markey and I to appear before you to present the Natural Resources Committee budget for the 112th Congress.

I will briefly summarize what is contained in the Committee's budget proposal.

First, it requests an overall **5% decrease** in the Committee's budget for the 112th Congress as compared to its 111th Congress budget. A real effort was made to identify areas where money can be saved and spending reduced, and there are reductions in virtually every budget category as detailed in the budget submission.

Second, the Committee is allocated 69 staff positions in total. In the 111th Congress, the Committee had nine nonpartisan shared staff positions. The Minority was allotted 1/3 of the remaining 60 staff positions on the Committee, or 20 slots. For the 112th Congress, at the initiative of the Majority, and with agreement from the Minority, the number of nonpartisan shared staff positions has been reduced to six. So, for the 112th Congress, the Minority was allotted 1/3 of the resulting 63 staff positions on the Committee, or 21 slots.

The Minority controls 1/3 of the budget for staff salaries. Majority staff and nonpartisan shared staff are paid from the 2/3 allocation to the Majority. This arrangement has worked well over several Congresses, and we have agreed that it is in the best interest of the Committee to continue this arrangement.

Third, the remainder of the budget, items such as travel and supplies, is treated in an open manner. Computers, copiers and other equipment are repaired or replaced as needed without regard to Majority or Minority affiliation.

Fourth, the budget reflects a slight decrease for travel, although this remains a priority for a Committee that very directly affects communities and economies in particular regions and areas of our nation, and its territories. Many Indian lands and communities most directly affected by federal forests, public lands, and other issues within the Committee's jurisdiction are in very remote parts of the country. Speaker Boehner and the Republican Majority have pledged a more open and transparent House, and it is my view that upholding this pledge means making the Committee accessible to these directly impacted communities. The calendar for the House for this session is also well-designed for these efforts to take the Congress and the Committee directly to the areas of the country affected by the laws, agencies, and Departments under the Committee's jurisdiction.

In conclusion, while Mr. Markey and I may disagree over a fair number of policy matters under our Committee's jurisdiction, I believe we share a common belief that political or policy differences should not be injected into Committee budget and administration matters. The proposal that we have submitted reflects that understanding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Markey.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you so much. I agree with Mr. Brady that the longer you are in politics, the more you should aspire to a higher percentage of your thoughts going unspoken. It is a good philosophy that he is the epitome of, I should say, in terms of his success in politics.

This is my 35th year on the Natural Resources Committee. It is my first as the ranking member. This committee was established right after the Louisiana Purchase in order to manage those issues here in the United States Congress, and I think that what Doc just laid out is an accurate reflection of the relationship which the majority and the minority have.

We are very happy with the allocation. We think it is a fair division of assets within the committee, and we do share the administrative costs, which I think makes a lot of sense, because much of what we do is just to ensure that there is a proper operation of the committee. And I think that division of assets works out very, very well, and it is done honestly and in a completely nonpartisan basis, which I think really does help the overall atmosphere of the committee.

There is some travel which is necessary for us to do the kind of oversight that Doc has laid out as part of the agenda of the committee, but I would say that notwithstanding the partisan differences that are going to exist on particular issues, in general we have an excellent working relationship, and I would recommend the adoption of the budget as the chairman has recommended it.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Markey follows:]

Statement of Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA)
Ranking Democratic Member, House Committee on Natural Resources
Before the Committee on House Administration
Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee, I am pleased to join with Chairman Hastings today to ask for your support for the Natural Resources Committee's budget request for the 112th Congress.

This is my 35th year on the Natural Resources Committee, but my very first year serving as its Ranking Member. The committee itself is one of the oldest committees in the House, having been originally established as the Committee on Public Lands in 1805 following the Louisiana Purchase. A lot of history resides in this committee, from the admission of States and the development of the West, to emergence of the modern conservation movement and what documentary filmmaker Ken Burns has called "America's Greatest Idea" -- our magnificent system of national parks.

Last year, the Committee was at the forefront of the Congressional investigation into the causes and consequences of the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, which claimed 11 lives, caused many more injuries, and led to an uncontrolled flow of 4.9 million gallons of oil out of the well over a period of nearly 90 days – resulting in the worst environmental catastrophe in our nation's history.

The Committee took the lead in drafting and processing the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act in the last Congress. Since the Senate did not approve similar legislation, the Committee has already begun considering what legislative, regulatory, and industry reforms in drilling practices are needed to prevent a repetition of the BP disaster. Chairman Hastings convened our very first hearing to receive testimony from the President's National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling. The Committee will continue its examination of these matters in the budget hearings scheduled during the next two weeks, as well as other future oversight hearings on Gulf of Mexico oil permitting and production.

The Committee has also planned an aggressive oversight agenda in many other areas within our jurisdiction. We will be reviewing the budgets and spending plans for all of the agencies within our jurisdiction. We will be examining onshore oil and gas programs, renewable and alternative energy programs, coal mining regulations and leasing, strategic and rare earth minerals, and oil shale leasing. We will be conducting oversight over the four power marketing administrations within our jurisdiction (the Bonneville Power Administration, the Western Area Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, and the Southeastern Power Administration). We will be looking at issues affecting Western water supplies. We have planned hearings and investigations relating to regulation of fisheries, wildlife, and the oceans, as well as our relations with America's insular areas, issues affecting Indian Country and Native Alaskans. In addition, the Committee will continue to have both substantial responsibilities relating to oversight of the nation's national parks, forests, and other public lands.

In order to carry out this agenda effectively, we will need the Committee's support for our Budget Request. Chairman Hastings has, consistent with the prior practice of our Committee, allocated 1/3 of the personnel and salary budget to the Minority. We have also agreed to continue the practice of the Committee to employ nonpartisan shared staff responsible for certain shared financial management, administrative, and support functions out of the 2/3rd share for the Majority. We think this arrangement has been fair to both the Majority and the Minority.

In conclusion, I support Chairman Hastings' request for the Natural Resources Committee's budget and I urge its approval by the Committee.

Thank you.

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 120

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

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

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RESOLUTION

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

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Natural Resources (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $15,739,532 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $7,869,766 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $7,869,766 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

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

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

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

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The CHAIRMAN. Doc, you mentioned—Mr. Chairman, you mentioned that you were in your budget looking at fewer travel funds. Is that where you looked to take most of your 5 percent cut, or did you have to do it across personnel as well?

Mr. HASTINGS. No, it was across the board. But the travel one, I won't by any stretch of the imagination say it is a huge cut. It is slightly less. But, no, it was generally across the board is where we looked at it. It wasn't any one particular area. It just turned out when we allocated it, that the travel came in less. That is all.

The CHAIRMAN. In your committee jurisdiction, how much jurisdiction do you have over water resources?

Mr. HASTINGS. Well, however it relates to public lands, we have a great deal. I know in your State it has a huge impact, as it does in my State as far as allocating water resources. But generally there are other issues that play into that mix, other statutes on the Federal books that play into that. But it does affect water issues, no question.

The CHAIRMAN. That is one of my questions. It is important for us in California and the West. We have a huge number of issues in terms of water allocation. We also have the issue that probably is within another committee of when we have made a decision that we don't do earmarks, the question is how do water projects get done, and what happens there, because that is a question I am getting from my constituents, and it is a question without an answer right now. I hope that in diminishing travel expenses, you being a man of the West, you will not forget the importance of the West as you look at issues particularly affecting water in our region.

Mr. HASTINGS. Well, obviously the challenge is to prioritize that travel, and I can tell you that we have prioritized the travel to go to California to speak to the very issue you are talking about. The time and all hasn't been set, but that is certainly something we are going to do, because this is a very serious issue, as you well know, to your economy and to certain segments of your economy, especially agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, we also have the issue right now of contracts that existed for decades with the Bureau of Reclamation having a new determination. I have communities in my district that have used the existing reliance on what the law was to figure out how best to utilize those resources in an environmentally protective fashion, and now they are being told that what they relied on no longer exists.

Mr. HASTINGS. I will tell you as we are speaking right now, the Water Subcommittee, chaired by your colleague from California, Tom McClintock, they are having a budget hearing right now, and these issues are being asked and being probed by Mr. McClintock, as they should be. So out of that will come some policy, I am sure, that will be developed in that regard.

The CHAIRMAN. I always remember Mark Twain's statement: Whiskey is for drinking; water is for fighting.

Mr. HASTINGS. Right. And that there is also another truism that is emerging, and that is we shouldn't ration shortages. We should try to find abundance. And it seems to me, some of the policies in the past have been exactly that, rationing shortages.

The CHAIRMAN. Okay. And I realize this is—talking about your budget, I just wanted to make sure that part of the jurisdiction you have isn't going to be slighted, because it really goes down to the question of how the people live in my area and whether they are able to have a standard of living.

Mr. HASTINGS. Like I say, it is prioritizing our travel budget, and that is high on our priority list.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. Brady.

Mr. BRADY. Just to thank the chairman and ranking member for being here today, and keep up the good work. I know you have a little bit of constraint with your budget problems, but we know you can fulfill them. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you for what you are doing and for your service on the committee and leadership. I appreciate you trying to do more with less. We will continue to work together. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. Just thanks to both Members. You will have disagreements on policy, but it is nice to see it is not a personal disagreement or a disagreement about how the committee will function itself. So thank you both for that.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Schock.

Mr. SCHOCK. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Nugent.

Mr. NUGENT. Do you have any oversight as it relates to water quality, numeric nutrients, EPA?

Mr. HASTINGS. Well, most of that jurisdiction as far as oversight on those issues resides with the Energy and Commerce Committee. Now, it intersects with us as it relates to public lands. Where these issues intersect with some issues on public lands, then we have a say. But primarily it is within the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. MARKEY. If I could, where, for example, there is fracking going on on public lands, and there are water quality issues, of course, that would come under the jurisdiction of this committee. I think that is where it could begin to affect rivers or drinking water that is coming off of public lands because of the drilling, the fracking that is occurring on public lands. We would have jurisdiction.

Mr. NUGENT. In Florida, obviously, there is a large amount of public lands that currently have wetlands on them, but also flowing waters. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. I want to thank both of you. You used the term "violent disagreements." I would just suggest to you, having played basketball with Mr. Markey, well, in the days when he had two good Achilles tendons, watch out for the elbows.

Mr. HASTINGS. Well, in the time we have been together, he hasn't thrown an elbow yet. But thanks for the heads-up.

The CHAIRMAN. It usually happens in the second half.

Mr. MARKEY. This is reflecting ancient animosity which all Notre Dame people have towards Boston College.

The CHAIRMAN. No, no, no. I have great respect for people that went to BC. We used to refer to it as "backup college."

Mr. MARKEY. No longer.

The CHAIRMAN. I don't want to show any disrespect to Mr. Van Hollen.

Mr. RYAN. His staff director is right here, and he is good to go, and we agree.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you for showing up.

We received the submissions that you have in writing about your budget, about salaries, et cetera, and that is part of our record. Any written statements that you have will be made part of the record. We are pleased to hear from you.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. PAUL D. RYAN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

Mr. RYAN. This committee has a long tradition of the majority treating the minority fairly. That was the case when John Spratt was chairman. We are continuing that tradition, one-third/two-thirds, sharing the equipment budget, doing it honestly. Mr. Van Hollen's statement will concur.

I thank you for this opportunity. I ask unanimous consent that my full statement be included in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, it will be.

[The statement of Mr. Ryan follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE PAUL D. RYAN
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
March 1, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Congressman Brady, for the opportunity to testify concerning the Budget Committee's funding resolution.

For the 112th Congress, all committees have been asked to reduce their budgets by five percent below the levels provided for the 111th Congress. Our funding resolution meets that guidance. We expect that the levels we are requesting for 2011 and 2012 will be sufficient for our needs.

We at the Budget Committee have prided ourselves on careful spending of the funds with which we have been provided. In addition, regardless of which party has been in the Majority, we have always fostered a collegial relationship on the issue of the Committee's budget. We have a bipartisan tradition regarding the allocation of resources between the Majority and Minority. The Majority makes at least one-third of the personnel budget available to the Minority, and this is the largest area of our spending needs. 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.

This budget continues that tradition. I believe our request is a disciplined budget that treats the Minority fairly, and I believe Mr. Van Hollen's testimony supports both our budget request and our plans for the management of committee funds.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

The CHAIRMAN. The 5 percent cut——

Mr. RYAN. We are fine with it.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have any difficulty with respect to the ability that you——

Mr. RYAN. No. We have our budget. We can live within the 5 percent cut. I can speak on behalf of both of us that we can do that. We have been doing that anyway, so we are good to go.

The CHAIRMAN. I notice you are one of the committees over the last number of years that have had the smallest increase, both the smallest request and the smallest increase.

Mr. RYAN. We try to walk the talk.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you have the same number of members on the Budget Committee this year as was true in the previous Congress?

Mr. RYAN. Yes. I don't think the ratio has changed. We are a little bit smaller. The ratio is about the same, but we are a little bit smaller.

The CHAIRMAN. Okay. And staff, you have 66 staff members total?

Mr. RYAN. That sounds about right.

The CHAIRMAN. Okay. I don't want to show any disrespect to Mr. Van Hollen, but I also don't want to——

Mr. BRADY. We have a statement from Mr. Van Hollen that supports what Chairman Ryan is saying.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Brady.

Mr. BRADY. Thank you for being here. I appreciate you doing the job that you got to do. I know it was not easy. I know you don't enjoy it. But thank you.

Mr. RYAN. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Gingrey.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman Ryan, in regard to the 5 percent, which you said you are fine with, and being the Budget Committee, I know that you know how to work that out, did it result in any lesser number of personnel, full-time equivalents?

Mr. RYAN. No. We have been living with this savings all along. As you know, when you go from minority to majority, obviously the majority going into a minority shrinks their staff, and the minority going into the majority increases its staff. So putting those changes and dislocations aside, this doesn't hamper our ability because we have been frugal all along.

Mr. GINGREY. In regard to deeper cuts, and, of course, obviously some amendments were proffered in regard to even additional 5 percent across-the-board cuts, was that something that would have caused a great deal of heartburn to try to enact after taking a 5 percent cut?

Mr. RYAN. It simply depends upon the depth. Obviously, there comes a point where then you do start doing layoffs. We have lots of printing we do in the Budget Committee. We don't do lots of travel, but there are some. We plan on doing some field hearings in the States to get ideas from around the country. Obviously, personnel is the biggest line item in our budget. It depends on how deep it gets.

I would simply say we do a lot with very few people. We are in charge, both the minority and the majority, of crafting the budget for the Federal Government not only for this year, but for the next 10 years. That is a big task. It requires a lot of expertise. And it is important that we do this here because we are the legislative branch. We don't want to simply rely on the executive branch to have the pen, to have the spreadsheets, to call all the shots. We need to have independent expertise here in Congress so we can exercise our constitutional rights under the separation of powers of having the power of the purse.

So with 66 people between the majority and the minority, that compares to thousands of people at OMB, 400 to 500 at CBO. So we do a lot compared to everybody else with very few people.

Mr. GINGREY. Indeed you do, Mr. Chairman. I commend you and the ranking member for the work you do with very limited resources.

Mr. RYAN. OMB is not quite 1,000. It is under 1,000. I am sorry. I stand corrected.

Mr. GINGREY. But the importance of what you do cannot be overstated, and we on the committee deeply appreciate the work you do.

Mr. Chairman, I will yield back. No further questions.

The CHAIRMAN. For the record, can you talk at least a little bit about how your committee works with CBO? CBO is a creation of the Congress. As you say, they have 400 folks there dealing with issues.

Mr. RYAN. They have 200 to 300 people.

The CHAIRMAN. Okay, 200 to 300 people, but obviously far more than you do with 66. How and in what way do you rely on them in your preparation of the budget?

Mr. RYAN. We rely on CBO to provide us all of the savings estimates, all of the cost estimates of any particular policy. As you know, tax policy is under the purview of the Joint Committee on Taxation, which is under the purview of the Ways and Means Committee. We get our revenue lines from CBO. But all spending estimates on savings or costing come from CBO.

So our analysts, the 66 people here between the minority and the majority, are in constant communication on a daily basis with their counterparts in CBO to get the savings estimates on any particular policy change we are considering that we are planning on.

So all of our budgeting is done based upon their estimates, based upon their numbers, based upon their baseline. So they prepare what I would call the measuring stick, the baseline, and then we think of reforms to get savings, or to spend more money, it depends on whatever budget you are writing, and we rely on their estimates as to the cost estimates of those policies to put our budgets together. So we completely rely on CBO.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. Van Hollen, thank you for coming. We realize that we were a little ahead of schedule, and you are not late actually, in accordance with the time. In fact, you are actually a little early. Not as early as Mr. Ryan.

Mr. Ryan has assured us that you agree with everything he presented. No, what he said was you agree with the budget submission. But we would love to have you speak for yourself.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brady, members of the committee, Mr. Gingrey. I learned in the last 5 minutes I really have to get in better shape running over here. But I am going to be very brief.

As you know, on the Budget Committee, while we may have contentious debates on policy issues and look forward to trying to find areas where we can agree from time to time on policy issues, we fully support the chairman's request for the budget.

The Budget Committee, this committee, as I am sure you know, has a long tradition of bipartisan cooperation when it comes to the fair distribution of the committee's resources, and I am pleased to report that from our vantage point, that cooperation is very much there under the leadership of Chairman Paul Ryan. I want to thank him for his cooperation and graciousness in leading the committee and in the fair distribution of the resources.

Mr. RYAN. John Spratt was that way with us, Jim Nussle was that way with them, and we are just continuing the tradition.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. We did have to make some tough decisions, I would say, but it was as a result of the transition in the Congress, not as a result of different distribution in the budget. But anything you can do to support the budget as requested, we have already, especially, of course, on the minority side, had to make some painful adjustments.

[The statement of Mr. Van Hollen follows:]

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 126

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

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

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RESOLUTION

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

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on the Budget (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $12,066,370.00 for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $6,033,185.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2011, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2012; and

(2) not more than $6,033,185.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2012, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2013.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

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

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

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

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The CHAIRMAN. Having served on the Budget Committee, knowing the work you do and the excellent staff that has been there, both Democrat and Republican, I appreciate your budget request. I also appreciate the fact that your committee has the history of probably being the most frugal in terms of requests for——

Mr. RYAN. As I say, we like to walk the talk.

The CHAIRMAN. That has been true under both Democrat and Republican. I appreciate the fact you are continuing that.

Do any Members have questions of Mr. Van Hollen?

Well, we thank you. If you want to figure out how to get in shape, just follow Paul Ryan's prescription.

Mr. RYAN. 6:30 every morning in the gym.

The CHAIRMAN. This hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:22 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]