HEARING ON COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 111TH CONGRESS (CONT'D)

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

HELD IN WASHINGTON, DC, FEBRUARY 25, 2009

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HEARING ON COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 111TH CONGRESS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2009

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

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:07 a.m., in room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Robert A. Brady (chairman of the committee) presiding.

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

Staff Present: Charles Howell, Chief Counsel; Jamie Fleet, Deputy Staff Director; Matt Pinkus, Professional Staff/Parliamentarian; Kyle Anderson, Press Director; Kristin McCowan, Chief Legislative Clerk; Gregory Abbott, Policy Analyst; Brian McCue, Professional Staff; Matthew DeFreitas, Staff Assistant; Victor Arnold-Bik, Minority Staff Director; George Hadijiski, Minority Professional Staff; Bryan T. Dorsey, Minority Professional Staff.

The CHAIRMAN. The quorum being present, I call the Committee on House Administration to order. And the Committee on House Administration—as you know, has a tradition where the chairpersons and ranking members of our committees come before the committee to discuss their funding and oversight priorities for each Congress. Out of respect and appreciation for the Chairs and ranking members participating, I am asking each Chair and ranking member to limit their statements to 5 minutes and for our committee members to be mindful of the schedule when asking their questions. Whatever information we do not have time to collect today, I am certain our staff can work with the various committees to get it from them in a timely fashion.

I would like to recognize our friend and ranking member, Mr. Lungren, for any opening statement.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And I want to thank you for the cordial relationship you have established in this committee with your staff and your staff with our staff. And while there are many areas that majority and minority members sometimes disagree on, we have for the last several years enjoyed a relatively bipartisan approach in this committee. At least two-thirds or three-quarters of what we do, it seems to me, is essentially bipartisan, and I hope that we can continue that tradition. Many of our chairmen and ranking members have established standing precedents about the operating practices within their respective committees and their function for many years according to those principle. Even though it may have new chairpersons and

ranking members before us, I am sure they want to follow in that same spirit. I want to ensure that the understanding that has prevailed over the last number of Congresses, both Democrat and Republican, continues, which is an equitable division of funding which has by precedent been established as the two-thirds/one-third rule with committees, and that is something that we have followed all the way through. I was pleased with the chairman's response that we will continue to do that as our effort here today, and I hope that we can move forward expeditiously.

I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. You are welcome. Anybody else have any opening statements they would like to make? Hearing none, I thank you again and welcome our own Vice Chair, and newly appointed Chair of the Ethics Committee, the gentlelady from California, Ms. Lofgren, and her ranking member, Mr. Bonner, from Alabama for opening statements. The floor is yours.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. ZOE LOFGREN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. LOFGREN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am pleased to be before you today as the new chairperson of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. Mr. Bonner and I have served as Chair and ranking member of this committee for, what, a couple of weeks now, Jo. So we are just beginning. And we believe that the committee, commonly known as the Ethics Committee, is an integral part of our institution.

As the full name implies, our job is to uphold the standards of the House, and we believe that the budget we have put before you will allow us to accomplish the upholding of the standards of the House.

Historically the committee has really had two roles. First is an advisory and educational role for our Members and staff and, second, an investigatory role or enforcement role when violations appear.

Now, we have historically produced a huge amount of work on traditionally modest resources. We have a new obligation since 2000 to provide mandatory annual ethics training for every officer and employee of the House of Representatives, including staff in district offices. That is over 10,000 employees and you can imagine that that is a substantial body of work that falls to the committee.

In addition, in March of 2008, the House voted to establish the Office of Congressional Ethics. That office has the authority to make referrals of alleged unethical conduct by House Members and staff to the committee for further inquiry and disposition. Obviously that is also going to expand the workload of the committee and its members.

The budget before you reflects the expansion of responsibility that has been added to the committee. We have requested a budget increase from the 110th Congress from 4.9 million to 5.7. This is an increase of 7.4 percent in 2009 and 8.6 percent in 2010. With regard to the staffing, we were granted additional positions in the 110th, but they are vacant. So we, Mr. Bonner and I, are on a mission to staff up—I mean, I have heard from many Members that they can't get their letters answered and there is a reason, because

we need—the staff is working very hard, but they are very short staffed, and so we need to change that.

The other thing that we hope to do is to increase the technology within the office. Much of the things that are—the approval, for example, of travel, preapproval of travel, which is a new responsibility of the committee is paper based. So there is—whole forests have fallen before this obligation. We hope to streamline that and have as much transparency as we do now, maybe more, but also to make it less burdensome not only for the committee but for every Member of the House that wants to comply with the requirement, but to do so in a very efficient way. So that is something that Mr. Bonner and I will be working on with the staff.

The other obligations that the committee has is to respond to telephone inquiries seeking guidance from Members on rules and standards, to draft responses to written requests for advisory opinions, to provide, as I mentioned before, ethics training, to draft advisory memoranda of general application called pink sheets that are distributed to all the Members and staff, and of course to review and approve over 2,000 financial disclosure statements by Members and officers and covered staff, which is an enormous undertaking as I am sure you can imagine.

I would ask unanimous consent that my entire statement be added to the record. But we do look forward to establishing our new working relationship with the outside ethics office that is really starting from scratch, and it is important that we set that up in a way that works well and is transparent and upholds the highest standards of the House of Representatives because really what we do on the committee and with the Members of the House is so important so that the public can have confidence that the people's House is living up to the highest rules possible. And that if we disagree, it is on the basis of principle, that we would never doubt that we are doing the best we can to deliver the best possible legislative product for America as we see fit, with no insinuation of other elements in the consideration. So we believe the budget we submitted is necessary.

In answer to the one-third/two-third question, we don't do that. This is the only committee in the House that is evenly split. The staff is appointed jointly by the Chair and ranking member with the exception of one counsel that each of us can appoint for assistance. So we have done that and we are in the process of doing that now.

And I will turn to my cohort here, Mr. Bonner, who can further elaborate, but I think from my perspective, that has worked very well and I expect it will continue to work well. And I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The statement of Ms. Lofgren follows:]

Testimony

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
Chair,
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

Before the
Committee on House Administration

February 11, 2009

Good morning, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear today on behalf of the Committee on Standards.

Congress is a venerable institution, and one in which we have a responsibility to ensure the highest standards of government. As the Committee's name implies, the Congress has entrusted the Committee with the responsibility to uphold the *standards* of this House. We believe that the budget proposal before you will aid us in accomplishing its mission.

Historically, the Committee has been charged with two roles. First, the Committee works to educate and advise members and staff. Second, the Committee investigates possible violations of the rules, and when the rules are broken, the Committee has the responsibility to enforce them. The Ethics Committee has long produced a significant body of work product with modest resources. The Committee annually produces thousands of written advisories and informal opinions, provides Member and staff briefings, and conducts investigations into possible rules violations.

These are, on their own, significant and taxing responsibilities. However, in 2007, the Committee was charged to carry out two new responsibilities. It must now conduct mandatory annual ethics training for every officer and employee of the House of Representatives, which consists of roughly 10,000 employees. It must also undertake mandatory reviews of all staff and Member travel requests to ensure that congressional travel offered to members and staff meets the requirements of the House ethics rules.

In addition, in March 2008, the House voted to establish the Office of Congressional Ethics. That office has the authority to make referrals of alleged unethical conduct by House Members and staff to the Committee on Standards for further inquiry and disposition.

Clearly, the Committee's mandate, as well as its staffing and technology requirements, has grown significantly. The budget request before you reflects these new requirements.

As for the specifics of the Committee's budget proposal, we have requested a budget increase from $4.9 million in the 110th Congress to $5.7 million in the 111th Congress. The Committee requires an additional $731,427 to meet its new and existing obligations. Our increase for 2009 is 7.4%, an increase of $201,981; in 2010, the increase is 8.6%, an increase of $255,114. With respect to staffing, the Committee was granted an increase in staffing in the 110th Congress to 24 positions. At present, at least 9 of these positions remain vacant. These are vacancies that the Committee will be filling in this Congress.

Importantly, the figures presented today to address both the *past*, unmetneeds of the Committee and the *current* mandates of the House ethics rules, both of which have resulted from the expanded mission of the Committee.

The primary increase in the budget -- $5.27 million of the $5.72 million – is for increased personnel expenses resulting from the increased responsibilities of the Committee. The Committee currently has 15 staff members. Under the Committee's rules, two of the staff are members of the Chair's and Ranking Member's personal staffs, who serve as shared staff for the Committee. The remaining professional staff members – currently, 13 in number -- are employed solely by the Committee. Seven of the current 13 staff members are counsel. They perform advice and education activities, and they conduct investigations and enforcement duties.

The current staff provides advice and education to House Members and staff in at least the following ways. They:

- Respond to telephone inquiries seeking guidance on the House rules and standards of Conduct;
- Draft responses to written requests for advisory opinions from House Members and staff, for review and signature by Chair and ranking Member;
- Provide ethics training by providing briefings on House rules and standards of conduct to Member and Committee offices;
- Draft advisory memoranda of general application ("Pink sheets") to be distributed to Members and staff; and
- Review and approve over 2,000 Financial Disclosure Statements filed by Members, officers and covered staff (in addition to congressional candidates) each year.

Committee staffs also assist in investigations and enforcement proceedings. The Chair and Ranking Member have authority under Committee Rule 18 to conduct inquiries prior to the establishment of investigative subcommittees, and Committee staff counsel assist the chair and ranking member in those inquiries. Staff counsel also assist members of Investigative subcommittees in conducting investigations to determine whether violations of rules or standards of conduct should be charged, and assist the Committee if adjudicative proceedings are required. Because of Committee confidentiality rules, no member of the Committee or any subcommittee may use their own staff to assist them in Committee work.

These existing functions alone require the additional staff approved in the 110th Congress, in order to meet the demands of the existing workload. With the House's adoption of greater ethical standards in the first session of the 110th Congress, as well as with the establishment of the Office of Congressional Ethics in the second session of the 110th Congress, the House gave the Committee substantial additional responsibilities. As a result, the Committee requires an increase in its resources.

First, all officers and employees of the House must attend mandatory ethics training each year, and certify their attendance to the Committee. The House has over 10,000 employees, including several thousand in district offices throughout the country. The training requirement will only have its intended impact if the offered training is substantial and meaningful, and we

intend to develop new training programs to achieve those goals. For example, just last fall the Committee introduced a new computer-based training module that can satisfy the mandatory training requirement for existing House officers and staff. Both the development of new training programs and the implementation of those programs will require substantial additional resources, and we intend to hire additional advisory counsel to assist in that effort.

Second, the Committee pre-approves all officially-connected, privately-sponsored travel, and it is required by the House to adopt and issue guidelines and regulations to be used in reviewing all such travel. Members and staff seeking approval for travel are required under those guidelines to provide substantial detail regarding the trips, and Committee staff must review each trip. The Committee received 2,590 requests for travel approval in the 110th Congress, of which 2,394 were approved. We anticipate receiving more travel requests this Congress, each of which the Committee's staff will need to review in detail. As you may be aware, Mr. Chairman, the travel approval process can be cumbersome. It certainly absorbs a significant portion of the Committee's resources, particularly since the process is paper-based. To improve the quality and timeliness of the Committee's review of travel requests, and to provide better service to Members and their staff, the Committee is requesting additional monies so that we can both increase staff and begin to address more systematic and technological issues in the travel request process.

We welcome the additional responsibility created by the Office of Congressional Ethics and those which already existed under the relatively new ethics rules adopted in the first session of the 110th Congress. We are committed to doing everything we can to ensure that all of the House rules and standards of conduct are understood and followed. We believe the budget we have submitted is necessary and appropriate to meet that commitment.

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 145

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California 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 Standards of Official Conduct in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.**

3 For the expenses of the Committee on Standards of
4 Official Conduct (hereafter in this resolution referred to
5 as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff
6 salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts
7 of the House of Representatives for committee salaries
8 and expenses, not more than $5,725,608.00 for the One
9 Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $2,735,247.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $2,990,361.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

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

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

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

○

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. And without objection, we are going to put your request in by unanimous consent.

Yes, sir.

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, and other distinguished members of the committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to be here to speak about the Ethics Committee's budget request for the 111th Congress. I am privileged to serve as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct with Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren, and our distinguished colleagues from all across the country.

The purpose and work of this committee, as you know, is very important. It includes helping to educate and advise Members and their staff of the House about their ethical responsibilities and to enforce violations of the rules of the House fairly and consistently. We share a commitment to carrying out these responsibilities to preserve the integrity of the House and to increase American citizens' confidence that their elected representatives, regardless of their partisan affiliation or position, are abiding by the highest ethical standards.

Ethics has become a popular topic recently. In that regard, our committee must be given the tools necessary to accomplish many critical tasks. This budget will support the committee in providing professional advice to all Members and their staff about a myriad of complex ethical issues involving gifts, privately sponsored travel, and public disclosure of finances. It will aid in our ability to increase and improve upon training for thousands of House staff located in Washington, D.C. As well as in district offices throughout the country, and it will help ensure that unethical conduct is promptly and impartially addressed.

I note that the House Administration Committee's actual funding in the previous Congress for the Ethics Committee was significantly below the budget request sought by the Chair and Ranking Member at the time, and I hope that is not the case in this Congress.

I look forward to working with you and my chairwoman to achieve a budget that will help achieve our goals as we respect and protect the institution that the American people look to and know as the United States Congress. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The statement of Mr. Bonner follows:]

Testimony by

Congressman Jo Bonner
Ranking Republican Member,
Committee on Standards of Official Conduct

before the
Committee on House Administration
February 11, 2009

Good morning, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren. I appreciate the opportunity to be here to speak about the Ethics Committee's budget request for the 111th Congress.

I am privileged to serve as Ranking Member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct with Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren and our distinguished colleagues.

The purpose and work of this Committee is very important: it includes helping to educate and advise Members and staff of the House about their ethical responsibilities and to enforce violations of the rules fairly and consistently.

We share a commitment to carrying out these responsibilities, to preserve the integrity of the House, and to increase American citizens' confidence that their elected representatives–regardless of their partisan affiliation or position--are abiding by the highest ethical standards.

Ethics has become a popular topic recently. In that regard, our Committee must be given the tools to accomplish many critical tasks.

This budget will support the Committee in providing professional advice to all Members and their staff about a myriad of complex ethical issues including gifts, privately sponsored travel and public disclosure of finances.

It will aid in our ability to increase and improve upon training for thousands of House staff located in Washington, DC and district offices throughout the nation. And, it will help ensure that unethical conduct is promptly and impartially addressed.

I note that the House Administration Committee's actual funding in the previous Congress for the Ethics Committee was significantly below the budget request sought by the Chair and Ranking Member, and I hope that is not the case in this Congress.

I look forward to working with you and Chairwoman Lofgren to achieve a budget that helps achieve our goals in the 111th Congress.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. And thank you for your service and your time in appearing before us here. Any questions from Mr. Lungren, the ranking member?

Mr. LUNGREN. Yeah, just a couple. And we are going to be limited by the total amount that the Appropriations Committee is ultimately going to give us. And if we add everything up that people have requested here, we are probably not going to fall within that range. So we are probably going to have to trim here and there.

In the past there have been substantial increases for the Standards Committee, even though it may have been below what was requested, and the argument at that time was there were additional duties, additional rules that had been established. They had to figure out what those rules meant as they were applied, and so forth.

And just this question and that would be since that is past you, some would say why do you need additional funds, and I would just like you for the record to just give us an idea of why?

Ms. LOFGREN. Well, as I mentioned in my opening statement, the new outside office is brand new. They just met for the first time a few weeks ago. That is a whole new additional burden that we need to work with them. We need to staff up to deal with that, adopt procedures to do that, and we don't know of course whether the volume of referrals will be high or low. But we need to be prepared.

Mr. LUNGREN. So the staff costs of their staff are included in this request?

Ms. LOFGREN. No, no. But our staff—they will review and then they refer. So we need to have—it is a matching system on our side.

Additionally, the burden of preapproving travel is—I mean, this is an enormous job. There is a lot of travel undertaken by Members, and I think having the preapproval is really a good idea. It has allowed the public and the Members to know that there is nothing wrong with the private sponsors. The staff reviews the private sponsors to make sure that there are no lobbyist influences so that—I think Member travel is important. You learn things when you go around and see with your own eyes. But the amount of staff time involved in that is huge. And I will add also Mr. Bonner and I are spending an enormous amount of time going through the approvals. So we have got to get that right. And it is not just in the committee's interest but every single Member of the House needs to make sure we have properly done that function and in a timely way as well. Would you have anything to add, Jo?

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Lungren, I would say I certainly agree that we are asking the American people to make sacrifices, and so we have to be careful of the example we set here in Congress. So you say that is a contradiction to ask for an increase in funding.

Let me give you an example of what happened to me in December. I was trying to access the House Ethics Committee web page to do a continuing education training class that I wanted to complete before I assumed the position as Ranking Member of the committee. And even though the Web page was updated in previous years, I was not able to access that because I was not on a House computer. I was doing it from home.

Technology is our friend, and there are ways that technology can actually save money, and I think that the request that we have made is for capital investment in people to bring our staff levels up to where we can respond to Members and their staff in a more timely fashion and also where we can in the era of transparency make sure that the American people see what it is that we are doing to try to uphold the integrity of the House of Representatives.

So it is a great question. It is certainly one we are sensitive to. But I think the chairwoman is right, what we are trying to do is to make sure we are ready to adjust not only to the new responsibilities that come with this outside group that was enacted in the 110th Congress, but to other challenges of Members and their staffs. We don't want a single Member to have to come before us because they committed a violation that we could perhaps with education and advice have helped them avoid.

Mr. LUNGREN. I thank you. Just for the record, I want to say that my office and I have benefited from the professionalism of the staff that you have. We have added a large number of new rules with obligations both on the Members and on your committee. And if we are going to make it work for the American people, we have to be able to have that properly staffed, and I appreciate your request and I appreciate your educated defense of that request.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Mr. Gonzalez.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Just a question quickly to the Chair and to the ranking member. Any reason to believe that the request from Members regarding either an opinion or an approval will diminish or reduce in number in the coming months? My suspicion is that it is going to increase. I don't think we do anything now—and it is good. The scrutiny is intense, as it should be, but we seek guidance. We don't do anything in my office now without checking with Ethics. We still say check with Ethics. It is Standards.

But still, any reason to believe your workload is actually going to decrease?

Ms. LOFGREN. I think that is an excellent question, and my guess is it is going to continue to increase. We talk to our colleagues and one of the things that all the members of the committee have pledged to do is not to give ethical advice on the floor to our colleagues and make a mistake. We need to have the staff review it and make sure it is in an orderly way. But we do note that people want to make sure that they are following the rules. The rules have grown increasingly complex and people are seeking guidance. They don't want to make an error.

So I think it is a very good question. I expect continuing increases in request for guidance. And that is a good thing. Because when we get that guidance, then people can comply with it and mistakes will not be made. So I think we are moving in the right direction.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Gonzalez, I would just say one of the other rule changes that occurred in the previous Congress which has added additional responsibility to this committee is the change that we made whereby if a Member is involved in a matter subject to the

jurisdiction of that local community or State rises above the level of a parking ticket, then we automatically have a responsibility to review that and to report back within 30 days. We had several Members on both sides of the aisle last year that in previous Congresses the matter would have been treated as an incidental incident and would not have come before the committee, taking up staff time and Member time but did. Those are just the new rules that we live by in an effort to try to uphold the highest standards.

So unfortunately, as much as we could hope that the work would diminish, I think the Chair and I are in complete agreement that we hope we never see a colleague or a member of the staff come before us because they have done something wrong. But I think it is our responsibility to do all we can to help lay a clear paper trail and a clear process to make sure that Members are making good decisions and realize the consequences that come along with a bad decision, even though it may have nothing to do with their official responsibility as a Member of Congress. It may be off campus and after hours, it nevertheless can come to our attention and will, with the time clock starting as soon as it does.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you very much. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. McCarthy.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I appreciate the presentation and I understand what Standards said. We make these new rules and sometimes people have been here longer, so they have to be educated. So I think it is a continual thing you will have to do, especially with this new ethics office.

I know your request is for two-years and we meet one time. I was just thinking—I guess this would be up to the chairman and to yourself—knowing where we are limited and we should be limited, making sure every dollar is spent wisely, and not knowing that you are walking in with this new outside world of ethics, would it be appropriate that the committees come back after the first year because everybody—we won't be able to fulfill everybody's needs, and knowing that you are going into a changing world? I am one that believes in technology, but the one thing that comes with technology as well is a whole new standard because you want to communicate with your constituents as much as possible and technology changes every day. But we have got to make sure we are meeting the criteria of Congress and not mixing anything different.

Would it be appropriate if a decision is made with coming back after a year to evaluate, knowing the limited dollar figures for the next year as well? How would you feel about that?

Ms. LOFGREN. Well, obviously I would defer to the chairman and ranking member of the House Administration Committee on whether they wish to have that kind of process. If they do, I would be happy to comply.

The CHAIRMAN. I certainly wouldn't mind if we have the money to be able to give to you. I don't know where that is. We would have to talk to our appropriators. But I would certainly not mind entertaining any requests after a year that you have to come back and get some more funding.

Mr. MCCARTHY. The only thing I was thinking, Mr. Chairman, is that we can't fulfill everybody's needs, and rightfully so. But it

gives a little greater accountability. Plus with the changing world therein, there may be something different that——

The CHAIRMAN. I understand and appreciate that. I have no problem doing that.

Ms. LOFGREN. If I could just on the point—we referred to it, but didn't directly address it, I have a very strong interest in—and I think the ranking member shares this interest—in updating our technology. That will help not only the House Administration Committee, but it will help every office on the Hill. It would be more efficient, for every single office will save money if we are successful in bringing technology in and streamlining some of these processes. So that is the major goal that we have.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. McCarthy, I would just add that while the Chairwoman had a previous tour of duty on this committee and I served in the previous Congress on this committee, this is, in fact, the first time that she and I have had an opportunity to work together and in the few weeks that we have had this opportunity, usually citing literally forests of paper that have been processed to make sure that Members were able to go on trips or not take trips or know what the rules were or were not, I am convinced that she and I will have an opportunity if we are still given this honor to serve on this committee either next year or the beginning of the next Congress with an opportunity to show you how that money has been invested wisely for the benefit of the Members and the institution, as well as for the staff.

As a former staffer, yourself, many times the 10,000-plus young men and women who work on the Hill come before the committee seeking advice as well. And a lot of times that is not necessarily going to make a headline in the newspaper unless they make a mistake. And so we truly want to embrace technology as much as we can, mindful of the budget constraints, so that this committee becomes a committee where people can come to and get a response back in a timely fashion.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you again for appearing in front of us and we certainly hope we never have to appear in front of you.

Ms. LOFGREN. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Mr. Lungren and Members.

The CHAIRMAN. Good morning. Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chairman Berman and Ranking Member Ros-Lehtinen. We look forward to your presentation and your statement, and the floor is yours.

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

Mr. BERMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lungren, and truly to your staff for the assistance in helping us get ready for this. And I want to thank my ranking member very much, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, for joining me here today.

I would like to start off by addressing a seemingly high budget request from my committee of 23.27 percent increase. Almost half

of this increase relates to a circumstance which I believe is unique to the Foreign Affairs Committee. We support financially two commissions and one interparliamentary group authorized by Congress, with leadership and members largely drawn from outside my committee's membership. It is the question of these Members chairing these two commissions and an interparliamentary group which accounts for the apparent large increase in my request.

Knowing that these commissions and interparliamentary groups are a priority for Members of Congress and are vital to the leadership on both sides of the aisle, they need to be funded adequately to achieve their mission. The budget request from the committee specifically represents a 13.78 percent increase for the committee over 2 years, includes a cost of living allowance of 4.78 percent this year, a cost of equipment replacement and salaries for two additional staff, majority and minority, which the Speaker authorized pursuant to House resolution establishing the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission last year. Therefore, through the 111th Congress, there would be only an average increase each year of 6.89 percent to cover COLAs, equipment, salaries and other expenses.

Our request also contains a budget request submitted by Mr. McGovern and Mr. Wolf to fund the newly established Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and by Mr. Price and Mr. Dreier for the House Democrat Democracy Assistance Commission. It also contains funds for a temporary additional position to manage interparliamentary exchanges. This request for this position is made at the behest of Mr. Tanner, to support his activities as President of the North Atlantic Assembly. It is quite an accomplishment that the NATO parliamentarians chose Mr. Tanner. He is going to be President of the North Atlantic Assembly for a 2-year term. When Doug B. Rider held that position, he received an additional temporary staff to assist him in his obligations. That is what we are asking for here.

So that is one of the three, and that is a temporary position for the term of John Tanner's chairmanship of the North Atlantic Assembly. The other two are the House Democracy Assistance Commission where we requested 506,000 plus dollars in total expenses for the work over the next 2-year Congress. Their request includes funding and slots for two staffers and the equipment needed to support the Commission's activities.

Mr. McGovern and Mr. Wolf have requested 933,000-plus dollars, almost 934,000, in total expenses to fund the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, which was created September 24, 2008. No additional funds were provided for it at that time, even though we passed a resolution creating the Commission in September and the speaker authorized two slots.

So this is the funding for those two positions. This is the first full Congress in which it has existed and thus their request includes salary and expenses for four permanent staffers, equally divided, and two shared staffers for a total of six positions.

The budget for these two commissions and the North Atlantic Assembly position represents 9.49 percent of the Foreign Affairs Committee request. Their requests are made through the committee because the committee provides the financial conduit through which their expenses are accounted. Under our practice, the ranking

member receives one-third of the salary budget, excluding shared administrative staff. Within our allocation, the ranking member determines how these moneys are to be distributed. The percentage allocated to the minority was the same in the 109th and the 110th and will remain the same in the 111th.

So to summarize and close, based on the committee's current and additional responsibilities, my request for a 13.78 percent increase for the committee and a 9.49 percent increase for the various commissions is in my opinion a reasonable request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The information follows:]

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 123

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Mr. BERMAN (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) 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 Foreign Affairs in the One Hundred Eleventh 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 $21,439,063 for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $10,336,207 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $11,102,856 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

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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TALKING POINTS: HFAC BUDGET REQUEST

- First my thanks to you Mr. Chairman, Mr. Brady, and your Ranking Member, Mr. Lungren, and also to your staff for the assistance provided to my Committee. I also want to thank my Ranking Member, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, for joining me here today.
- I would like to address immediately the seemingly high budget request from my Committee of a 23.27% increase. Almost half of this increase relates to a circumstance which I believe is unique to the Foreign Affairs Committee. We support two Commissions and one Inter-Parliamentary group authorized by Congress with leadership and members largely drawn from outside my Committee's membership. It is at the request of these members, chairing these two Commissions and an Inter-Parliamentary group, which accounts for the apparent large increase in my request. Knowing that these Commissions and inter-parliamentary groups are a priority for members of Congress and are vital to the leadership on both sides of the aisle, they need to be funded adequately to achieve their mission.

- My budget request for the Committee specifically represents only a 13.78 % increase for the Committee over two years and includes a cost-of-living allowance of 4.78% this year, the cost of equipment replacement, and salaries for two (2) additional staff (majority and minority) which the Speaker authorized pursuant to a House resolution establishing the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission last year.
- Therefore, through the 111th Congress there would only be an average increase each year of 6.89% to cover COLAs, equipment, salaries and other expenses.
- Our request also contains the budget requests submitted by Mr. McGovern and Mr. Wolf to fund the newly-established Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and by Mr. Price and Mr. Dreier for the House Democracy Assistance Commission.
- It also contains funds for a temporary, additional position to manage inter-parliamentary exchanges. The request for this position is being made at the behest of Mr. Tanner to support his activities as President of the North Atlantic Assembly. He was recently elected to this two year term. When Mr. Bereuter was elected President, he received additional temporary staff to assist him in his obligations.

- Mr. Price and Mr. Dreier have requested $506,591.52 in total expenses to fund the House Democracy Assistance Commission's work over this Congress. Their request includes funding and slots for two (2) staffers and the equipment needed to support the Commission's activities.
- Mr. McGovern and Mr. Wolf have requested $933,934.57 in total expenses to fund the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission which was created September 24, 2008. No additional funds were provided for it at that time. This is the first full Congress in which it has existed and thus their request includes salary and expenses for four (4) permanent staffers, equally divided, and two (2) shared staffers, for a total of six (6) positions.
- The budget for these two commissions, and the North Atlantic Assembly position, represents 9.49% of the Foreign Affairs Committee's request. Their requests are being made through the Committee because the Committee provides the financial conduit through which their expenses are accounted.

- The Ranking Member receives one-third of the salary budget excluding shared administrative staff. Within her allocation, the Ranking Member determines how these monies are to be distributed. The percentage allocated to the minority was the same in the 109th and 110th and will remain the same in the 111th.
- To summarize, based on the Committee's current and additional responsibilities, my request for a 13.78 % increase for the Committee and a 9.49% increase for the various commissions is a reasonable one.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lungren, and fellow committee members. I am proud to appear alongside my friend and my good colleague, the distinguished chairman, Mr. Berman. Our Committee on Foreign Affairs has a long and rich history of working in a bipartisan manner to advance our Nation's security interests and foreign policy priorities around the globe. The consultative and collaborative approach extended into the budget process, with the chairman reaching out to me to ensure that the minority's requests were incorporated into the final presentation.

The matters addressed by our committee are among the most far reaching and important for our Nation. If we are to provide for our Nation's security, we must be able to effectively address the threats posed by radical Islamic militant extremists, their state sponsors, their financiers and other supporters. We must be able to access and to strengthen our nonproliferation efforts and develop an integrated approach to curbing the spread of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, including by addressing both export control mechanisms as well as illicit networks that provide rogue regimes and nonstate actors with the technology, the materials, the assistance to pursue policies that threaten our U.S. and global security. Our focus should not simply be on addressing immediate threat, but in pursuing sustainable programs that will build civil society, provide for political freedom and economic growth and prosperity, thereby countering the precursor conditions that breed hatred and extremism and in turn lead to violence and terrorism.

Our committee is also embarking on a long and difficult process to overhaul our basic foreign policy assistance statute, along with our foreign aid programs, our structures, our operations to ensure maximum effectiveness, accountability, and transparency. As our oversight plan denotes, we have a robust agenda planned for this 111th Congress, and as such, the Committee on Foreign Affairs needs to have the adequate resources to exert proper oversight and assess, develop and implement legislative strategies that will help achieve those desired objectives.

I will continue to work with our chairman, Chairman Berman, to achieve a fair and equitable majority/minority distribution and look forward to working with all of our colleagues in developing and implementing an effective foreign policy that promotes U.S. national security interests in the short and long term.

I thank all of you for your time, and I thank the chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And I have admired Mr. Berman for many years. We worked together on the Judiciary Committee, and I have always known him to be an outstanding attorney and he proved it again today by taking his increase from 25.9 percent down to 6 percent effectively. Very, very well-done.

Let me ask this. We will not have all the funding that has been requested of us. We have a pretty good idea from the Appropriations Committee, we are not going to be able to fulfill all of these obligations, so we are probably going to have to go through some

haircuts here. If that were the result with your committee, are you prepared to find those savings?

Mr. BERMAN. Well, there is no doubt we will adjust to whatever——

Mr. LUNGREN. Let me ask it this way. Would it be more likely that you would find those savings in these new entities that you have to gear up for or in your already existing functions?

Mr. BERMAN. We cannot afford—if we get much significantly less than this, I don't think we can afford to do in these other commissions what I would like to see done. I mean, the human rights work that—I think what they do is bring real value to the Congress and basically to American interests. But if you look at the agenda of this administration on foreign policy, the incredibly complex nature of the issues that come before us, the administration's whole intent with respect to reinvigorating both diplomacy and development, we want to have oversight, we want—we also want to have partnership. We are not going—I don't think in our core budget—we need a little bit more.

So I think in the end, the pain will come mostly on our efforts to do the work of these independent commissions. But I want to speak a little bit about those commissions. I mean, that parliamentary commission that the two Davids lead, Price and Dreier, they do some remarkable things. They go out and meet—help build up and provide—show the parliaments of newly emerging democracies how to establish their sort of strength, their independence, their staffing, improve their processes, become more transparent. They provide a very valuable role. If building emerging democracies and strengthening parliamentary institutions in those countries is an important priority, I hate to see that pulled back.

But you are right in the sense that we will have to live with whatever we get, and my guess is our ability to continue to be the conduit for as much funds as I would like to have for them would suffer more than the committee's direct activities.

Mr. LUNGREN. Ms. Ros-Lehtinen, as I understand it, there is the two-thirds/one-third agreement on your committee. Are you satisfied with that?

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. We are very satisfied that the chairman has been working with the minority in a very fair way and the minority does retain full control over the one-third of our salary budget, excluding shared staff and—such as our security officer, systems administrator, budget officer, certain administrative staff. And with respect to nonpersonnel items, I coordinate very well with the chairman on one-third of all nonpersonnel items like—including equipment upgrades, staff increases, if any, additions of any sort granted to the majority during the 111th Congress.

So I have found Chairman Berman to be very fair to the minority in making sure that we retain full control of our one-third allocation.

Thank you, Mr. Lungren.

Mr. BERMAN. Could I just add one thing? On these commissions, by the way, they are—obviously the temporary slot for Tanner is—money will come out of the committee. But Tanner is going to have one person to help him perform his job as chairman. But on the

other two commissions, that is sort of a 50/50 split, as I understand it. It is a very shared nonpartisan approach to the whole thing.

Thank you very much.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. I was just looking at your budget request and the upgrades that you want to make in your IT area, I think that is good. I just wanted to raise an issue—and you probably can't answer today, so I am not asking you to. But there has been a concern raised by several Members about cyber security and Members who take their BlackBerries abroad and then all of the data is stolen or there is insufficient security, especially with mobile devices. And I am hopeful that since the members of your committee probably travel more than anyone else abroad, as they should, that some attention be directed to them to—the Members don't always realize that they are putting sensitive information at risk. And if a staffer could be assigned to raise the consciousness of all of the committee members and staff on that point I would be very appreciative.

Mr. BERMAN. The only thing I could answer right now, we are concerned about that. There was a story that came out about the hacking and it was particularly—I think it was some of the Foreign Affairs Committee computers. It was believed that hacking originated in a large country on the other side of the Pacific. But——

Mr. LUNGREN. The largest.

Ms. LOFGREN. If I may, Mr. Berman, there is also risky behavior that Members can engage in by visiting Web sites not realizing that they are actually opening up their systems to viruses and worms. And in some cases that has occurred—I don't want to talk about in particular instances.

So certainly we want to have vigorous cyber security in the institution of the House, but some of it is also educating our Members about what behaviors are risky——

Mr. BERMAN. We are bringing in the staff of our committee for an NSA briefing on the dangers of this. I personally have taken a principled position of not to use a BlackBerry in order to avoid security problems and restrict my e-mail account to e-mailing you.

Ms. LOFGREN. Which I appreciate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. BERMAN. And Lamar Smith.

Mr. HARPER. And this question is for both of you or either of you. With the situation that we are in in the country right now, what would be the impact on your committee if these new positions remained unfunded through this year and was reevaluated at the end of the year?

Mr. BERMAN. I think, number one, it hurts our ability to do the oversight that the House rules are now asking us to do vigilantly. I mean, this is a funny situation at this point. We have a very ambitious administration agenda in the foreign policy area by a new administration and a much more structured obligation to do oversight, which we should be doing on that administration, even as we try to work in partnership with them to achieve common goals.

I will give you one example. On the majority side I have one majority staffer dealing with the Middle East. In addition to it being

sort of an area that obsesses me, what we are talking here is the Arab-Israeli conflict, we are talking about Iran, we are talking about Gulf security, we are talking about comprehensive peace issues, we are talking about North Africa, a huge part of the focus of the terrorism issue. And I need to augment that. Without the resources, I won't be able to do that and I will be less effective because of that.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. And if I could just add, our U.S. foreign policy is an important part of our domestic agenda as well. As much as we can reach out to countries and explain what our message is and our belief in a strong democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, I think it will bring down the needs, the domestic needs of our country in our national security concerns. So both issues are intertwined. Foreign policy is a domestic concern, and it brings down the cost of our security apparatus when we build friendships and relationships around the globe.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. I think also, Mr. Harper, if I may, what he was trying to say, that you come once for 2 years of funding. The previous committee was also asked if they could come back maybe once a year. It used to be that way with this committee. We used to have funding once a year. And maybe it is smart for you to project for a 2-year funding. And if need be, I would be agreeable to come back again after this year's funding, as my ranking member so stated that we are limited in what we can give to all these committees. We don't have the luxury of giving everything that you want. But if in another year if something comes up, especially your sensitive committee, you may need extra funding, we have no problem in entertaining the fact—try to fight along with you with our appropriators to get some more money for you.

Mr. BERMAN. Well, with that interesting idea, it may become a necessity.

The CHAIRMAN. It may. We have no problem entertaining or doing it if need be.

Mr. LUNGREN. And also it would give us an opportunity to review how these new functions are carried forward.

Mr. BERMAN. In terms of the Commission's work or the oversight work?

Mr. LUNGREN. And in terms of—if you get an additional person in the Middle East, how that is working out. I mean, is it bolstering your ability to do what you need to do, those sorts of things that you hope will happen. After a year, we could see at least how far along you are on that progress or if there has been progress made.

Mr. BERMAN. Another example. We have one—I have one full committee staff person to cover every issue involving Europe and Russia and Europe in the most expansive sense of the term "Europe." I mean, one only has to read the paper every day to understand all the issues that subsumes. But I take your point.

The CHAIRMAN. More money or another person? What are you saying, you need more money or another person?

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. We will take both.

Mr. BERMAN. Unless I can find a slave——

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. We are against that, Howard.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

I understand the Intelligence Committee is on their way. It will be a few minutes.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Hoekstra may be on his way. He is stuck in another committee but we are ready to go with Intelligence with Chairman Reyes. And also I understand that Ranking Member Hoekstra did submit a statement for the record so we will accept that and we will proceed with you and hopefully he will get here.

[The information follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE HON. SILVESTRE REYES, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. REYES. Very good, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you and my colleagues on the committee. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to explain and describe the committee budget request for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the 111th Congress.

Given the current economic climate, the committee has redoubled its commitment to a program of fiscal restraint and has moderated its request to reflect our commitment. The committee is requesting only a 1.5 increase over our 2008 total budget authority for 2009. And for 2010, the committee is requesting an increase of less than 1 percent over the 2009 total budget. There is no excess, Mr. Chairman, in this request, and the committee requires these funds to meet its responsibilities in the course of the 111th Congress.

As you know, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has seen its committee membership increase by one this Congress, from 21 members to 22. The committee is authorized 44 staff slots which allows for 5 designated support staff, 26 majority staff and 13 minority staff. At present the committee's 13 majority members and 9 minority members are served by 37 on our staff to include 5 designated support staff, 21 majority staff, and 12 minority staff members who work in accordance with our rules at the direction of the of Ranking Member.

Now that the committee has relocated from its office in the Capitol to the new much larger spaces in the Capitol Visitor Center, the committee anticipates filling as many vacant staff positions as necessary to fulfill our committee's mission. As has been the case since the 106th Congress, the committee will abide by the two-thirds/one-third allocation for personnel salaries in the 111th Congress, whereby the minority will control one-third of the budget for personnel salaries and lump sum payouts. And as was the case in the 110th Congress, the support staff will continue to support the entire committee, and the majority will continue to pay the entirety of support staff salaries during the 111th Congress.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, since September 11, 2001, it has been imperative for the Intelligence Community to improve its intelligence capabilities significantly so that decision makers are well informed as they deliberate and determine the direction of national security and homeland security policies. In the past we have witnessed how the failure to provide and to coordinate intelligence capabilities can result in a breakdown in the formulation of policy and operational planning.

In the 111th Congress, the committee will endeavor to provide the Intelligence Community with the resources and capabilities that it needs to carry out this very critical mission to our national security. We anticipate a determined focus on the issues of terrorism, cyber security, effective intelligence support to the warfighter and to policymakers, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the penetration of hard targets such as Iran and North Korea.

Unfortunately, world events continue to illustrate the vast number of challenges facing the Intelligence Community and these challenges require rigorous and vigilant oversight on the part of our committee. The committee views these responsibilities to conduct oversight not only in terms of threats posed to our Nation but also in terms of our Nation's ability to disrupt these activities and to respond successfully to these threats.

The committee is also committed to conducting the painstaking oversight required to reassure that the American people have an Intelligence Community that is fully observing its legal obligations.

Mr. Chairman, the specifics of this committee's budget and our request are directly supportive of the oversight activities that I have outlined in the discussion draft of the committee's oversight plan for the 111th Congress. As I mentioned previously, the 2009 budget request is a modest 1.5 percent increase over the 2008 total budget authority. The committee was very grateful that the budget allowance for the 110th Congress, especially the funding for 2008, was generous enough to allow the committee to replace and upgrade a significant portion of its equipment during our relocation from H–405 to the Capitol Visitor Center. As such, the committee has now appropriately scaled back the 2009 budget for equipment and associated maintenance and consultant contracts as we finalize a few information technology components that are associated with our move.

Given this reduction in one budget line, the 2009 total increase reflects a 1.2 increase in the category of personnel compensation, a 35.7 percent increase in travel-related funding, the doubling of funds available for printing and reproduction, and a 20 percent increase in both supplies and materials category and the other services budget line. In order to fulfill our unique mission, the committee must recruit and retain highly qualified and cleared staff.

The enlargement of committee space in the Capitol Visitor Center also allows us to fully staff our committee for the first time. As such, the increased funding for personnel compensation would permit retention of key personnel with unique expertise, as well as the expansion of committee staff.

The committee's obligation to exercise oversight over the Intelligence Community has intensified as the Intelligence Community has become more significantly engaged in every corner of the world. Given substantial increases in airfare, the cost of lodging, meals, parking, taxes and other associated costs, the recent genesis of a host of airline surcharges, the committee is requesting a $25,000 increase in our travel budget. The committee will continue to seek military escorts to mitigate the costs associated with commercial travel.

The oversight conducted by this committee is inherently classified in nature. However, I am dedicated to providing as much transparency as is possible. Too often the taxpayers are suspicious of the actions undertaken by elements of our Intelligence Community, especially in light of the programs revealed under the Bush Administration. It is my hope that the committee's oversight work will serve to reassure the public that the men and women of our Intelligence Community are not the questionable characters they have been made out to be. Instead, these men and women are your friends and neighbors, patriotic public servants who sacrifice and serve our Nation quietly, without the expectation of recognition or accolades.

In this vein, the committee anticipates a greater number of open hearings, an increase in printing and distribution of unclassified documents, reports, transcripts and the reuse of the committee's compilation of intelligence laws and related laws and executive orders of interest to our national Intelligence Community.

The 20 percent increase in 2009 in the "other services" budget category includes funding for the committee's contract to host and update both the majority and minority Web sites. The increase also allows for more professional staff participation in intelligence-related conferences and seminars, makes available funds for continued information technology and security training for committee support staff, and provides moneys to complete the furnishings of our new spaces in the Capitol Visitor Center.

Notably in 2009, the committee will make several one-time representational expenditures to include the purchase of two committee crests, flags, and flag stands. The request also reflects a 60 percent reduction in funding for consultant contracts, which in previous years have been overfunded.

Finally Mr. Chairman, in 2008, due to unforeseen needs and increased costs, the committee exceeded the supplies and materials allocation by almost $4,000. The request for increased funding in this budget category for 2009 will correct this shortfall and adjust for inflationary costs.

For 2010, the committee continues to exercise fiscal restraint with a requested increase of less than 1 percent over the 2009 total budget authority. This nominal increase in the total budget authority takes into account a modest cost-of-living adjustment of 2.8 percent for committee personnel and also provides upwards adjustments for anticipated inflationary costs for travel-related expenses and supplies and materials. The request is also indicative of a $70,000 reduction, or 22 percent decrease, in the equipment and related maintenance budget from 2009 to 2010.

Mr. Chairman, the committee's budget request for the 111th Congress is sound, ensuring an effective balance between fiscal responsibility and the need for appropriate oversight. The funds requested are the funds required for the committee to conduct our oversight properly and responsibly. As the exclusive overseer of the Intelligence Community for the U.S. House of Representatives, I give you my commitment that the committee will continue to act as guardian of the taxpayer monies that are used to finance our intelligence programs and to account for the programs intended to

safeguard the Nation's security and protect our individual freedoms.

With that, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I thank you for your consideration of this request, and now I would welcome any questions that you might have.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Reyes.

[The information follows:]

Statement of

Chairman Silvestre Reyes

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

on the

Committee Budget Request for 111th Congress

before the

Committee on House Administration

Wednesday, February 11th, 2009

Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Ehlers, I thank you for providing me with this opportunity to explain and describe the committee budget request for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the 111th Congress.

Given the current economic climate, the Committee has redoubled its commitment to a program of fiscal restraint and has moderated its request to reflect this commitment. The Committee is requesting only a 1.5% increase over our 2008 total budget authority for 2009. For 2010, the Committee is requesting an increase of less than .01% over the 2009 total budget authority. There is no excess in this request, and the Committee requires these funds to meet its responsibilities in the course of the 111th Congress.

As you know, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has seen its committee membership increase by one this Congress, from 21 members to 22. The Committee is authorized 44 staff slots, which allows for five designated support staff, 26 majority staff, and 13 minority staff. At present, the Committee's 13 majority members and nine minority members are served by 37 staff, to include five designated support staff, 21 majority staff, and 12 minority staff members who work in accordance with our rules at the direction of the Ranking Member. Now that the Committee has relocated from its office in the Capitol to the new, much larger spaces in the Capitol Visitors Center, the Committee anticipates filling as many vacant staff positions as are necessary to fulfill the Committee's mission.

As has been the case since the 106th Congress, the Committee will abide by the two-thirds/one-third allocation for personnel salaries in the 111th Congress, whereby the Minority will control one-third of the budget for personnel salaries and lump sum pay-outs. And, as was the case in the 110th Congress, the support staff will continue to support the entire Committee, and the Majority will continue to pay the entirety of support staff salaries during the 111th Congress.

Mr. Chairman, since September 11th, 2001, it has been imperative for the Intelligence Community to improve its intelligence capabilities significantly so that decision-makers are well-informed as they deliberate and determine the direction of national security and homeland security policy. In the past, we have witnessed how the failure to provide and to coordinate intelligence capabilities can result in a breakdown in the formulation of policy and operational planning. In the 111th Congress, the Committee will endeavor to provide the Intelligence Community with the resources and capabilities it needs to carry out its critical mission. We anticipate a determined focus on the issues of terrorism, cybersecurity, effective intelligence support to the war-fighter and to policy-makers, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the penetration of hard targets such as Iran and North Korea.

Unfortunately, world events continue to illustrate the vast number of challenges facing the Intelligence Community; and these challenges require rigorous and vigilant oversight on the part of the Committee. The Committee views the responsibility to conduct oversight not only in terms of the threats posed to our Nation, but also in terms of our Nation's ability to disrupt these activities and to respond successfully to such threats. The Committee is also committed to conducting the painstaking oversight required to reassure the American people that the Intelligence Community is fully observing its legal obligations.

Mr. Chairman, the specifics of the Committee's budget request are directly supportive of the oversight activities I have outlined in the discussion draft of the Committee's Oversight Plan for the 111th Congress.

As I mentioned previously, the 2009 budget request is modest, just 1.5% over the 2008 total budget authority. The Committee was grateful that the budget allowance for the 110th Congress, especially the funding for 2008, was generous enough to allow the Committee to replace and upgrade a significant portion of its equipment during the relocation from H-405 to the Capitol Visitors Center. As such, the Committee has now appropriately scaled back the 2009 budget for Equipment and the associated maintenance and consultant contracts, as it finalizes a few information technology components associated with the move. Given this reduction in one budget line, the 2009 total increase reflects a 1.2% increase in the category of Personnel Compensation, a 35.7% increase in Travel-related funding, the doubling of funds available for Printing and Reproduction, and a 20% increase in both the Supplies and Materials category and the Other Services budget line.

In order to fulfill our unique mission, the Committee must recruit and retain highly-qualified and cleared staff. The enlargement of Committee space in the Capitol Visitors Center also allows us to fully staff for the first time. As such, the increased funding for Personnel Compensation will permit retention of key personnel with unique expertise, as well as the expansion of Committee staff.

The Committee's obligation to exercise oversight over the Intelligence Community has intensified as the Intelligence Community has become significantly

engaged in every corner of the world. Given substantial increases in airfare, the cost of lodging, meals, parking, and taxis, and the recent genesis of a host of airline surcharges, the Committee is requesting a $25,000 increase in the Travel budget. The Committee will continue to seek military escorts to mitigate the costs associated with commercial travel.

The oversight conducted by this Committee is inherently classified in nature; however, I am dedicated to providing as much transparency as is possible. Too often, taxpayers are suspicious of the actions undertaken by elements of the Intelligence Community, especially in light of the programs revealed under the Bush Administration. It is my hope that the Committee's oversight work will serve to reassure the public that the men and women of our Intelligence Community are not the questionable characters they have been made out to be. Instead, these men and women are your friends and neighbors: patriotic public servants, who sacrifice and serve our Nation quietly, without the expectation of recognition or accolades. In this vein, the Committee anticipates a greater number of open hearings, an increase in the printing and distribution of unclassified documents, reports, and transcripts, and the re-issue of the Committee's "Compilation of Intelligence Laws and Related Laws and Executive Orders of Interest to the National Intelligence Community."

The 20% increase in 2009 for the Other Services budget category includes funding for the Committee's contract to host and update both the majority and the minority websites. The increase also allows for more professional staff participation in intelligence-related conferences and seminars, makes available funds for continued information technology and security training for Committee support staff, and provides monies to complete the furnishing of our new spaces in the Capitol Visitors Center. Notably, in 2009, the Committee will make several one-time representational expenditures to include the purchase of two Committee crests, flags, and flag stands. The request also reflects a 60% reduction in funding for consultant contracts, which in previous years have been over-funded.

Finally, in 2008, due to unforeseen needs and increased costs, the Committee exceeded the Supplies and Materials allocation by almost $4000. The request for increased funding in this budget category for 2009 will correct this shortfall and adjust for inflationary costs.

For 2010, the Committee continues to exercise fiscal restraint with a requested increase of less than .01% over the 2009 total budget authority. This nominal increase in the total budget authority takes into account a modest cost-of-living adjustment of 2.8% for committee personnel and provides upward adjustments for anticipated inflationary costs for Travel-related expenses and Supplies and Materials. The request is also indicative of a $70,000 reduction, or 22% decrease, in the Equipment and related maintenance budget from 2009 to 2010.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee's budget request for the 111th Congress is sound, ensuring an effective balance between fiscal responsibility and the need for appropriate oversight. The funds requested are the funds required for the Committee to conduct our

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

I thank you for your consideration of this request, and I welcome any questions your Committee might have for me.

IV

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 113

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2009

Mr. REYES 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 Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.**

3 For the expenses of the Permanent Select Committee
4 on Intelligence (hereafter in this resolution referred to as
5 the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff sala-
6 ries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts
7 of the House of Representatives for committee salaries
8 and expenses, not more than $10,850,000 for the One
9 Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $5,387,500 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $5,462,500 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

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. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. And thank you for the presentation, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. REYES. Thank you.

Mr. LUNGREN. It was one of the most succinct and extensive and actually very impressive testimonies we have had in the last couple of years that I have been here. As one who served on that committee in the 1980s, I appreciate the work that you do. And I am actually surprised. When I went up to some briefings in the Intelligence Committee last year, I found out that nothing had changed in the last 20 years in terms of the equipment that you had, the staffing space that you had. And you have now moved into new quarters, which are definitely needed. But I am surprised that you are not asking for additional funds. I appreciate very much your concern about the fiscal responsibility of your committee.

Let me just ask you this. This is a committee that—over the last—well, from 105th to 110th Congress averaged an increase, Congress over Congress, of 17 percent, and then from 108th to 110th Congress it was 14.7 percent. So you are asking now for a combined 3.7 percent. The concern is no less. That is, for the responsibility that you have, the terrorism that we have in our outside world is there, the need for intelligence is there, the need for oversight is there.

Can you tell us how you are able to achieve your continuing responsibilities with such a fiscally responsible request?

Mr. REYES. Well, absolutely. And thank you. And I was unaware that you were a member of this committee in the 1980s.

Mr. LUNGREN. I just look a lot younger than I am.

Mr. REYES. But I can tell you a couple of reasons. The first one is we have been able to invest in technology. We have now, thanks to the money that was available to us in 2007–2008 for the move down—the anticipated move down to the CVC, we are now able to support two different systems: one, a secure network that ties us in with the rest of the Intelligence Community and Department of Defense; and then, the regular one that will not be cleared for classified information, number one.

Number two, we have had an opportunity since I took over as Chairman in 2007 to formalize the recordkeeping and all of the accounting systems that we found did not exist in a sensible fashion when I took over as Chairman.

While you know, having been a chief in the Border Patrol, you never want to turn down money, we feel very comfortable that the submission that we have requested from the committee is ample enough to carry out our duties in oversight, making sure that the Intelligence Community provides this Nation with our utmost in protecting our national security.

The CHAIRMAN. Would you be averse to coming back to this committee in a year or so that we could reassess where you are with your budget, see if you have been able to accomplish what you needed to accomplish?

Mr. REYES. Absolutely not. I would be happy to come back.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Ms. Lofgren, any questions? Mr. Harper?

Mr. HARPER. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. We do have a statement from Mr. Hoekstra in the record. If anybody has to ask him a question, you can submit the question to the Clerk and we will get an answer for you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. REYES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Chairman Spratt, Ranking Member Ryan, thank you for coming here today. And we look forward to hearing from you, hearing your testimony and whatever you have to say. The floor is yours, sir.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. SPRATT. Chairman Brady, General Lungren, members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify regarding the Budget Committee's funding request for the 111th Congress. For each session of this Congress the Budget Committee is requesting a funding level that is frozen, fixed at the end of last year's level. In other words we are requesting the same allocation for 2009 and 2010 as we enjoyed in 2008.

The CHAIRMAN. Spoken like a true budget chairman.

Mr. SPRATT. We think we are setting a positive symbol. Additional resources would be useful and welcome. But in light of the fiscal challenges facing the Federal budget, we believe that a continuation of the funding level provided for last year should be sufficient for the Budget Committee for the 111th Congress as well.

Looking at the funding requests on an account-by-account level, the largest account by far is, as usual, the personnel account. In the last Congress our personnel costs were less than anticipated, substantially less because of some very significant vacancies on our staff, including the policy director, a degreed economist, and two budget analysts. We anticipate filling these vacancies in the new Congress and we believe that the proposed level of personnel compensation will allow us adequately to staff the committee with highly qualified staff.

Our equipment budget allows for a continuation of regular upgrades of computer hardware and software and other equipment. Regardless of which party has been in the majority, we on the Budget Committee have prided ourselves on a collegial relationship with our counterparts in the Republican Party and with respect to the committee's budget. When we were in the minority, we always had a mutually agreeable arrangement with the previous majority, an arrangement which we continued in the 110th Congress when we moved up to the majority.

In consultation with the minority, we intend to continue this longstanding practice in the 111th Congress. The practice is that the minority controls one-third of the total budget for personnel, meaning a third of the available staff slots and a third of the line items for personnel. Additionally we will continue the committee's past practice of upgrading the minority's equipment and provide for

other expenses for the minority out of the overall committee equipment and expenses budget.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have about the committee's request, and thank you very much for your consideration and your support in past years.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The statement of Mr. Spratt follows:]

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

February 11, 2009

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Congressman Lungren, for the chance to testify before this Committee regarding the Budget Committee's funding request for the 111th Congress.

For each session of the 111th Congress, the Budget Committee is requesting a funding level that is frozen at last year's level. That is, we are requesting the same allocation for 2009 and 2010 as we had for 2008.

Additional resources are always useful, but in light of the fiscal challenges facing the federal budget, I believe that a continuation of the funding level provided for last year should be sufficient for the Budget Committee in the 111th Congress.

Looking at the funding request on an account-by-account level, the largest account by far is, as usual, the personnel account. In the last Congress, our personnel costs were less than anticipated because of some significant vacancies on the staff – including policy director, an economist, and two budget analysts. We anticipate filling vacancies in the new 111th Congress, and believe that the proposed level of personnel compensation will allow us to adequately staff the committee with highly qualified staff.

Our equipment budget allows for a continuation of regular upgrades of computer hardware and software and other equipment.

Regardless of which party has been in the majority, we at the Budget Committee have prided ourselves on a collegial relationship with respect to the committee's budget. When we were in the minority, we always had a mutually agreeable arrangement with the previous majority – an arrangement that we continued in the 110th Congress when we moved to the majority. In consultation with our minority, we intend to continue this long-standing practice in the 111th Congress. The practice is that the minority controls a third of the total budget for personnel, meaning a third of the available staff slots and a third of the line-item for personnel. Additionally, we will continue the Committee's past practice of upgrading the minority's equipment and providing for other expenses for the minority out of the overall Committee equipment and expenses budget.

I would look forward to answering any questions that you might have about our Committee's request. Thank you.

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 135

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Mr. SPRATT 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 Eleventh Congress.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.**

3 For the expenses of the Committee on the Budget
4 (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Com-
5 mittee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there
6 shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House
7 of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses,
8 not more than $12,701,442.00 for the One Hundred Elev-
9 enth Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $6,350,721.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $6,350,721.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

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. Ryan.

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

Mr. RYAN. Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren, I am pleased to testify here concerning our committee's funding resolution for the 111th Congress. I support Chairman Spratt's request for the committee. Our committee has long been characterized by vigorous policy debates, but the proceedings of our committee are carried out in a very civilized manner. Chairman Spratt has set that example. Chairman Spratt has continued that tradition, and I think the two of us have enjoyed a cordial and professional working relationship over the past 2 years.

I join the Chairman in recommending a disciplined funding level for the House Budget Committee. The recommended level freezes funding at the 2008 level, authorized for our committee. Our committee has a bipartisan tradition regarding the allocation of resources between the majority and the minority. I thank Chairman Spratt for keeping that tradition alive and well.

The majority makes at least one-third of the personnel budget available for the minority, equipment for both majority and minority then comes out of a common fund on the same schedule and with the same quality for both sides.

I have been assured, as you just heard in his testimony, by Chairman Spratt, that this will continue in the 111th Congress. This recommendation is a disciplined budget that treats the minority fairly. On that basis, I support the request and urge the Committee on House Administration to do so likewise. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE PAUL D. RYAN
RANKING REPUBLICAN, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
11 February 2009

As the Budget Committee's Ranking Republican, I am pleased to testify here concerning our committee's funding resolution for this 111th Congress.

I support Chairman Spratt's request for the committee. Our committee has long been characterized by vigorous policy debates, but the proceedings of our committee are carried out in a civil manner. Chairman Spratt has continued that tradition and I think the two of us have enjoyed a cordial and professional working relationship over the last two years.

I join Chairman Spratt in recommending a disciplined funding level for the House Budget Committee. The recommended level freezes funding at the 2008 level authorized for our committee.

Our Committee has a bipartisan tradition regarding the allocation of resources between the majority and minority. I thank Chairman Spratt for keeping that tradition alive and well. The majority makes at least one-third of the personnel budget available to the minority. Equipment for *both* the majority and minority then comes out of the common fund, on the same schedule, and with the same quality, for both sides. I have been assured by Chairman Spratt that this will continue in the 111th Congress.

The recommendation is a disciplined budget that treats the minority fairly. On that basis, I support the request and urge the Committee on House Administration to do likewise.

The CHAIRMAN. Any questions? Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. First of all, I thank you both for coming and thank you for your testimony and thank you most of all for your budget submission here. This is the second bit of good news we have had in a row here about committees telling us that they can do a good job while being very, very fiscally responsible.

What would you say if we were to indicate to you that it might be the feeling of this committee that we ought to have committees come back, even though we have the approval of a full Congress for their budget request, come back after a year for us to take a look at how you have spent the money and see how the budget is forming up with what the responsibilities are as opposed to just having committees come to us once every 2 years?

Mr. SPRATT. You mean once a Congress as opposed to——

Mr. LUNGREN. Right now we just have them come once a Congress. We are thinking about maybe having committees come back after the first of the year so we can review their budgets, see how the expenditures are going, and see in fact if it is in concert with the spending plan and the responsibilities that they thought they would have to carry out.

Mr. SPRATT. I don't have a problem with that.

Mr. RYAN. Sounds fine to me.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much. And, again, thank you for the presentation and thank you for setting an example for this Congress.

Mr. SPRATT. Could I add one thing, please, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member?

The CHAIRMAN. Sure.

Mr. SPRATT. Out of the jurisdiction—not about the Budget Committee, about the committee I served on for 26 years, the House Armed Services Committee. In the years when the money was plentiful for staff and for committees, our committee was not as aggressive as it might have been. If you can help that committee, they can very much use the help to the advantage of the House, particularly with personnel. But also our committee room is one of the better committee rooms in the House because we have got lots of modern electronic devices, and that would greatly help that committee as well. It is a major meeting place or venue for briefings and things of that nature. If we could get better sound equipment and better visual monitors like these, I think it would be a plus for that committee and increase the quality of our work.

The CHAIRMAN. I will tell Mr. Skelton and Mr. McHugh that you have put that in the record.

Mr. SPRATT. I didn't ask for it. I volunteered it. I think it would be money well spent. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. You are welcome. Any questions, Ms. Lofgren, Mr. Lungren? Thank you. Thank you for being here today.

We would like to welcome the Agriculture Committee, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Lucas. Thank you for appearing here today and we appreciate your promptness. We took you a little bit out of order because the Global Warming Committee is a little bit behind. But what they don't know is that we take money, a percentage away for every 10 minutes they are late. And the committee that jumps

ahead, we are much more favorable towards. So we look forward to your testimony.

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

Mr. PETERSON. All right. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. And thank you for this opportunity to be here today. I appreciate Ranking Member Lucas joining me to outline our committee's proposed budget for the next 2 years. Representative Lucas, as you know, takes over as Ranking Member for Mr. Goodlatte of Virginia who served as top Republican on this committee for 6 years. Mr. Lucas is a longtime member for the whole time he has been in Congress of the Agriculture Committee, and he knows well of the long proud history of bipartisan cooperation that has been the hallmark of our committee.

Chairman, the House Ag Committee has a strong tradition of offering outstanding service to committee members and their staff from providing thoroughly researched materials related to legislation under the committee's jurisdiction. This work is done despite modest staffing and budget resources in relation to committee size and standing within the House. I think this is a credit to the work of a highly qualified and experienced staff on both sides of the aisle.

Given the workload that the committee will assume this year, we propose a moderate but necessary increase in funding. These resources will be essential to the committee's success in the 111th Congress as we have planned an active and busy oversight agenda.

We have working expeditiously on commodity and financial derivatives legislation. In fact we are having a markup tomorrow at 1:00. Last year the committee held extensive hearings on the lack of transparency and oversight of the derivative markets. This work resulted in a strong bipartisan bill that received over 280 votes when it passed the House. It did not move in the Senate. Completing derivatives legislation has been a top priority of our committee since the 111th Congress began, as we have already had two hearings on the draft language with the intent of passing a strong bipartisan bill.

Chairman, 2 years ago when I sat in this room, our committee was ready to begin the process of writing a new Farm Bill to authorize our Nation's major farm conservation, nutrition and rural development programs. While that process may have taken a little bit longer than anyone on our committee would have liked, a Farm Bill was completed and enacted last May. Our committee is now focused on an effective timely implementation of the Farm Bill by the new administration. We have been working on that with the previous administration.

We have had some issues that we have been able to generally resolve. One of them actually took us having to pass a bill to resolve it. But we intend to continue this vigorous oversight and we are going to make sure that the congressional intent is followed in that regard.

The Agriculture Committee also plans to conduct active oversight in the area of food safety, which affects every congressional district

and constituent in America. Last Congress, we held instructive hearings on recalls, traceability and new technology in the areas of food safety, and we intend to expand our efforts to ensure that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has the resources and procedures in place to protect the public from food-borne illnesses, at least within the areas where we have jurisdiction.

In addition, our committee plans an aggressive top-to-bottom review of the Department of Agriculture. We will examine the Department's structure, consider possible changes, strive to ensure that the agency is capable of meeting its goals and serving ranchers, farmers, and consumers.

Mr. Chairman, there are some things we are undertaking for the first time that I would like to make your committee aware of. We are requesting a modest increase in resources in order to strengthen the committee's Web sites, multimedia capabilities including webcasting and video functions.

The committee would also like to increase investment in a redesign of the current Web site in order to make sure—make it more transparent and accessible to Members, staff, and to the general public.

And, finally, I would again return to the process of writing a Farm Bill. Prior to the legislative work on the Farm Bill that our committee began in 2007, we have spent part of the previous Congress conducting a series of nationwide field hearings to hear from producers, processors, consumers, and advocates about farm nutrition and renewable energy policy. Those hearings were an invaluable resource for our members when writing the Farm Bill. And we intend to conduct the first set of Farm Bill field hearings in 2010, both to look back at the 2008 bill and to consider the future of food and farm policy.

So thank you for your consideration of our budget request. I am confident that with the resources requested, our committee can continue to work in a bipartisan fashion to complete our agenda for the 111th Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Peterson follows:]

Testimony of
Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin C. Peterson
Before the House Administration Committee
February 11, 2009

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today. I appreciate Ranking Member Frank Lucas joining me to outline our Committee's proposed budget for the next two years. Representative Lucas takes over as Ranking Member from Representative Bob Goodlatte of Virginia, who served as top Republican on this Committee for six years. Mr. Lucas is a longtime member of the House Agriculture Committee and he knows well of the long and proud history of bipartisan cooperation that has been a hallmark of our Committee.

Mr. Chairman, the House Agriculture Committee has a strong tradition of offering outstanding service to Committee Members and their staffs and providing thoroughly researched materials related to legislation under the Committee's jurisdiction. This work is done despite modest staffing and budget resources in relation to the Committee's size and standing within the House. This is a credit to the work of a highly qualified and experienced staff on both sides of the aisle.

Given the workload that the Committee will assume this year, we propose a moderate but necessary increase in funding. These resources will be essential to the Committee's success in the 111th Congress, as we have planned an active and busy oversight agenda.

We are working expeditiously on commodity and financial derivatives legislation. Last year, the Committee held extensive hearings on the lack of transparency and oversight of derivatives markets. This work resulted in a strong, bipartisan bill that received over 280 votes when it passed the House. Completing derivatives legislation has been a top priority our Committee since the 111th Congress began, as we have already held two hearings on draft language with the intent of passing a strong, bipartisan bill.

Mr. Chairman, two years ago when I sat in this room, our Committee was ready to begin the process of writing a new Farm Bill to authorize our nation's major farm, conservation, nutrition, and rural development programs. While that process may have taken a little bit longer than anyone on our Committee would have liked, a Farm Bill was completed and enacted last May. Our Committee is now focused on effective, timely implementation of Farm Bill provisions by the new Administration. We intend to be vigorous in our oversight and will work to make sure that Congressional intent is followed in this regard.

The Agriculture Committee also plans to conduct active oversight in the area of food safety, which affects every Congressional district and constituent in America. Last Congress, we held instructive hearings on recalls, traceability, and new technology in the areas of food safety, and we intend to expand our efforts to ensure that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has the resources and procedures in place to protect the public from foodborne illness.

In addition, our Committee plans an aggressive, top to bottom review of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We will examine the Department's structure, consider possible changes, and strive to ensure that the agency is capable of meeting its goals in serving farmers, ranchers and consumers.

Mr. Chairman, there are some things we are undertaking for the first time that I would like to make your Committee aware of. We are requesting a modest increase in resources in order to strengthen the Committee web site's multimedia capability, including webcasting and video functions. The Committee would also like to increase investment in a redesign of the current web site in order to make it more transparent and accessible to Members, staff, and the general public.

Finally, I would again return to the process of writing a Farm Bill. Prior to the legislative work on the Farm Bill that our Committee began in 2007, we spent part of the previous Congress conducting a series of nationwide field hearings to hear from producers, processors, consumers and advocates about farm, nutrition, and renewable energy policy. Those hearings were an invaluable resource for our Members when writing omnibus farm legislation, and we intend to conduct the first set of Farm Bill field hearings in 2010, both to look back at the 2008 bill and to consider the future of food and farm policy.

Thank you for your consideration of our budget request. I am confident that with the resources requested, our Committee can continue to work in a bipartisan fashion to complete our agenda for the 111th Congress.

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111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 136

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

Mr. PETERSON 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 Agriculture in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.**

3 For the expenses of the Committee on Agriculture
4 (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Com-
5 mittee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there
6 shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House
7 of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses,
8 not more than $13,104,587 for the One Hundred Eleventh
9 Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $6,316,330 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $6,788,257 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

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. Mr. Lucas.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Thank you, Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren, and members of the committee. I am pleased to be here today in support of the Ag Committee's 111th budget request alongside Chairman Peterson. As you just heard from Chairman Peterson, our committee has enjoyed a long history of bipartisanship and I plan to continue that spirit of cooperation as we proceed with the work of the committee in the 111th Congress.

We have major tasks ahead of us with the implementation of the Farm Bill and monitoring the effects of the economic downturn in rural America. In addition to bipartisanship, the Ag Committee has a strong history of fiscal responsibility. The modest spending and cooperative nature of our committee spans back more than two decades under the control of both parties. It is my intention to work with Chairman Peterson and the members of the committee to ensure that this tradition is continued. And I ask that you grant us the funds requested to reach our goals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Lucas follows:]

Testimony of Agriculture Committee
Ranking Republican Frank Lucas
House Administration Hearing on Committee Budgets
February 11, 2009

Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren, and members of the committee, I am pleased to be here today in support of the Agriculture Committee's 111th budget request alongside Chairman Peterson. As you just heard from Chairman Peterson, our committee has enjoyed a long history of bipartisanship, and I plan to continue that spirit of cooperation as we proceed with the work of the committee in the 111th Congress. We have major tasks ahead with the implementation of the Farm Bill and monitoring the effects of the economic downturn on rural America.

In addition to bipartisanship, the Agriculture Committee has a strong history of fiscal responsibility. The modest spending and cooperative nature of our committee spans back more than two decades, under the control of both parties. It is my intention to work with Chairman Peterson and the members of the committee to ensure that this tradition is continued and ask that you grant us the funds requested to reach our goals.

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The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And thank both of you for appearing before us. As you know, we are the authorizing committee. We have to work with the Appropriations Committee. We understand that if we granted all the requests from all the committees that come here, we would exceed what the Appropriations Committee is going to give us. So we will have to make some decisions with respect to committees. If in fact your increased request were required to take a haircut, do you have an idea where you would try to find those savings, what the priorities would be such that we would have some idea how that would affect your request?

Mr. PETERSON. Well, we are a practical bunch at the Ag Committee, and we will deal with it. We will adjust the resources to make sure that our obligations and responsibilities are taken care of. You know we are not out to, you know—I think our requests have been modest, and we actually returned money this last Congress that we didn't spend. So I think we have been fiscally responsible. I guess one of—you know we are trying to—what I was expecting to do at the beginning of this Congress was get into this reorganization or look at USDA. Because of the financial crisis and so forth, I have spent all of my time working on this derivative stuff. But we are going to get to this. There seems to be an interest on the part of the new Secretary in looking at this. And if we are going to do this right, you know, this is going to take a lot of work and a lot of resources to get at what I think are some problems down at USDA. And it is not unique to them.

But we have got big computer problems. You know they still—the county offices have AS 400s, they are writing in COBALT, if you can believe that. The programs that send out the checks to the farmers are still being written in COBALT. They have got system 36s tied into the system. This thing has got to be brought into the 21st century. So you know if we could get that computer thing fixed, you know I think we could really streamline a lot of things in the Department. But it is going to take a lot of work and it is going to take people on our staff that can help us get to the right conclusion. But if we don't get what we are asking for, we will deal with it and adjust accordingly.

Mr. LUNGREN. I don't think it was addressed, but the question of staffing one-third/two-thirds, which is the principle that we operate on under here, is that reflected in——

Mr. PETERSON. Yes.

Mr. LUNGREN [continuing]. In this budget request?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes.

Mr. LUCAS. Yes.

Mr. LUNGREN. You are satisfied?

Mr. LUCAS. Yes.

Mr. LUNGREN. One of the things we have been talking about is, because of what you mentioned about funding and trying to make the best educated guess we can on what the requirements are going to be and so forth, that even though we might authorize the 2-year funding from here, that we might ask committees to come back after a year so that we can reassess and see whether, in fact, the obligations they had turned out to be that way and whether in

fact the money that they requested was the money that they needed, or whether there was some review that was necessary. Would you be averse to——

Mr. PETERSON. No, not at all.

Mr. LUNGREN [continuing]. Coming back and reporting to us on how things are going?

Mr. PETERSON. I would be happy to do it.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Also that goes the other way. If we cannot give the amount of funds you are asking for, when you come back maybe we can increase it because you are doing such a good job, and you still have that need. So that will happen on both ends.

Mr. Harper, no more questions.

Thank you again for joining us. Thanks for being here.

Mr. PETERSON. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Good morning. We will take up the Committee on Global Warming. Mr. Markey is here. Mr. Sensenbrenner is not showing up, but he also does support your statement and supports your request. We thank you for coming and showing up here a little late. We do penalize people that come late percentage-wise by every minute. So you will be getting a little less than your request. So make it up in a better presentation.

Chairman Markey.

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

Mr. MARKEY. I thank you very much. Perhaps I can compensate by reducing the length of my opening statement.

The CHAIRMAN. That will really work. You are right back on track, sir.

Mr. MARKEY. We can then add back on what it is that we receive. And I just want to thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Lungren, for allowing me to come here this morning.

The Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming was formed by Speaker Pelosi in March of 2007 and created by H.R. 202 in the 110th Congress. That resolution funded the committee for the 110th Congress, and consequently this is the first time for this committee to consider the work of the select committee.

The select committee has 15 members, 9 Democrats and 6 Republicans. And Jim Sensenbrenner, as you pointed out, is the ranking member. And in our first year, we held 55 hearings.

The CHAIRMAN. Excuse me, sir. Could you push that button for the microphone? I am sorry.

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you. Excuse me. I apologize to you.

Jim Sensenbrenner is the ranking member. In our first term, we held 55 hearings, covering topics that range from the geopolitical implications of global warming to the impacts of global warming on the Arctic, to biofuels and other renewable technology, to oversight of the Executive branch and the auto industry. In October, we published a report to the Speaker laying out our recommendations on these issues and a plan to move forward as we negotiate this climate crisis towards our green energy future.

Towards the goal of resolving these issues, the select committee, with Speaker Pelosi, traveled to Greenland, to Germany, to India for 8 days in order to fully explore the climatic and the international ramifications of moving forward on climate change legislation. And the Speaker's participation in those trips that we took to these many countries over the last 2 years I think is in anticipation of the work which we are going to do this Congress as well.

We have already been active at looking at our important energy and environmental issues. Last week we held our second hearing of this Congress to explore how the nations in the world can reach an agreement in Copenhagen in December of this year. We are prepared to match our success from the last Congress by holding educational hearings for our members and the public, several field hearings to highlight the regional challenges of global warming facing this country and the opportunity for success.

We are asking for a very modest increase on our committee budget from 2008 to 2009, and I am pleased to report that Mr. Sensenbrenner supports the funding resolution and has agreed to cosponsor the resolution. The only significant change in our budget is to increase staff pay by the recommended cost of living adjustment for Washington, D.C., 4.7 percent. To accomplish this, we are asking for an increase to $2,096,000 for 2009. For 2010, we are asking for $2,070,600. Both years are a small increase from our 2008 appropriation.

We use the recommended split of funds by providing one-third to the minority, two-thirds to the majority. Similarly we divide our 21 staff positions, 7 to the minority, 14 to the majority.

I obviously cannot speak for Mr. Sensenbrenner, but we have worked very closely together in a cooperative relationship in order to accomplish the goals which we have.

Again, I apologize. I was on the floor waiting for my time to speak about our great chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. Dingell, next to whom I have sat for the last 33 years as a Member of Congress, and I appreciate your indulgence in allowing me to do that.

[The statement of Mr. Markey follows:]

STATEMENT of Chairman Edward J. Markey
Chair, Select Committee on Energy Independence & Global Warming
Before the
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

The Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming was formed by the Speaker in March of 2007 and created by H. Res. 202 in the 110th Congress That resolution also funded the Committee for the 110th Congress, and consequently this is the first time for this Committee to consider the work of the Select Committee. As a result, let me spend a minute summarizing the work of the Select Committee.

The Select Committee has 15 members, 9 Democrats and 6 Republicans, and Jim Sensenbrenner is the ranking member. In our first term, we held 55 hearings, covering topics that ranged from the geopolitical implications of global warming to the impact of global warming on the arctic, to biofuels and other renewable technology, to oversight of the Executive Branch and the auto industry. In October we published a report to the Speaker laying out our recommendations on these issues and a plan to move forward as we negotiate this climate crisis toward our green energy future.

This Congress we have already been active in looking at the important energy and environmental issues set forth by the Obama Administration. Last week we held our second hearing of this Congress to explore how the nations of the world can reach an agreement in Copenhagen later this year to reduce international greenhouse gas emissions.

We are prepared to match our success from the last Congress by holding educational hearings for our members and the public, several field hearings to highlight the regional challenges of global warming facing this country and opportunities for success, and Committee recommendations in the forms of reports and white papers.

We are asking for a very modest increase on our Committee budget from 2008 to 2009 and I am pleased to report that Mr. Sensenbrenner supports the funding resolution and has agreed to cosponsor the resolution. The only significant change in our budget is to increase staff pay by the recommended cost of living adjustment for Washington, DC, 4.7%. To accomplish this, we are asking for an increase to $2,096,900 for 2009. For 2010, we are asking for $2,070,600. Both years are a small increase from our 2008 appropriation of $2,058,800.

We use the recommended split of funds by appropriating 1/3 to the minority, and 2/3 to the majority. Similarly, we divide our 21 staff positions, 7 to the minority, 14 to the majority. I obviously cannot speak for Mr. Sensenbrenner but I can tell you that we have worked hard to have a cooperative relationship with the Minority over the past two years, and I think we succeeded and I expect to continue that in the 111th Congress.

I thank you, and can answer any questions.

IV

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 147

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts 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 Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming (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 $4,167,500 for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $2,096,900 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $2,070,600 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

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

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

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

○

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Mr. Lungren, questions?

Mr. LUNGREN. Yes. Thank you very much. And I thought you were going to use your Achilles as the reason you couldn't get over here in time. I have tried that one and it sometimes works. So keep that one in your back pocket.

We are the authorizing committee and we can either allow decisions that we make here to be the contours of the expenditures by the various committees or we can grant everybody's requests and then, knowing that the appropriations subcommittee is not going to grant all that, have them do it. So I think we would rather exercise our jurisdiction in that regard, and that will require us to put haircuts on a number of, if not all of the requests that we have. We just can't meet all of these requests.

Are there some priorities that you have that you would protect more than others if you had to make some tough decisions with respect to the spending that you have got here?

Mr. MARKEY. That is tough, principally because President Obama and the Speaker have both said that global warming and energy are their signature issues for these first 2 years. So in order to meet the incredible schedule which is going to be created to deal with these issues and knowing that they are moved up to the very top of the list amongst all the important issues, it is a difficult—that would be a difficult decision for me to make, to be honest with you.

Mr. LUNGREN. If you were a committee that had just started and had trouble starting up and then was going to have a tremendous increase in the work that you were going to do over the first year, I could see a significant increase or even a modest increase. But you came out of the chute really working. You have had 55 hearings. You had those educational efforts. You had the international travel, and I just think you guys really worked hard last time.

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you.

Mr. LUNGREN. You are probably going to continue to work hard.

Anyway, those are the kinds of things we have to keep in mind here. Because as I say, otherwise we grant everybody close to what they want or what they want and then the appropriators decide. And it just seems to me that we are supposed to be the authorizing committee. So we are going to have to make some tough decision. And if you could help us with any guidance on that, it would be beneficial.

The other thing I would just ask is this. Because of the difficulty that we are having with the economy this year and as we are looking at requests, there is some thought that we have the chairman and the ranking member come back to us after a year. In other words, we make the decision with respect to the budget, a 2-year budget, but come back and we take a fresh look at how you are doing, what you are doing, and how much of an increase in activity you have, those sorts of things. Would you be adverse to coming back?

Mr. MARKEY. Absolutely not. And I think we will have plenty of evidence to justify the budget which is granted to us this year. No, I would be more than willing to.

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

Mr. MARKEY. Might I just say, Dan, that when the Speaker and I talked about this 2-year period, we actually talked about the amount of time it was going to take. So we agreed that perhaps I should leave the Homeland Security Committee just so it freed up more time to work on this.

Mr. LUNGREN. And I noticed that.

Mr. MARKEY. I hope that is one of the reasons that you might look more favorably upon——

Mr. LUNGREN. That you left Homeland Security?

Mr. MARKEY. The fact that I am not on the committee anymore.

Mr. LUNGREN. I see. You are pulling out all the stops. I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. You are looking for sympathy now, I understand. Flattery is better.

Mr. MARKEY. Well, no, not sympathy. I am looking for gratitude. Mr. Lungren and I have——

The CHAIRMAN. Flattery is still above all.

Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. Chairman Markey, thank you very much. I appreciate it. My understanding—of course I can ask this as a rookie—your committee has no legislative authority; is that correct?

Mr. MARKEY. That is correct.

Mr. HARPER. Is there any intent that it will move towards that in future Congresses, to have legislative authority?

Mr. MARKEY. No. In fact, the Speaker has made clear this is the final 2 years for the existence of this committee. So what she has laid out as her goal and why she asked me to stay on for the next 2 years, she wants to make these 2 years the energy independence and global warming 2 years. And so I, you know, have left the Homeland Security Committee, I have redoubled all my energies on this subject at her request, but with her goal of having completed, you know, an agenda in these areas by the end of these 2 years.

Mr. HARPER. And if energy independence is a goal that we have, has your committee taken a position on the drilling for oil in ANWR and for offshore exploration?

Mr. MARKEY. We would not cast votes on it, but we would conduct hearings that would make it possible to have the Members of the House fully informed as to what the countervailing considerations were in casting a vote on that issue.

Mr. HARPER. Is there a mood that you would support the drilling for oil in ANWR as part of the energy independence goal?

Mr. MARKEY. In ANWR I would put it lower on the list. But as Mr. Lungren knows, last September in the House we voted to open up consideration for new areas for drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf. Now, I do believe sensitive areas should be protected, including Georgia's Bank. But with that said and that kind of protection built in, I did vote to open up that whole debate in terms of where we should be drilling.

So I am not saying anything other than that it is now time for us to do this comprehensive review of all of these issues. And yesterday Secretary Salazar actually announced the beginning of this comprehensive review of the Outer Continental Shelf with my support so that we can begin that process.

Mr. HARPER. That legislation, did it include revenue sharing for the States?

Mr. MARKEY. I think there was some revenue sharing that was included in that legislation. I can't remember the exact proportion that was included. But there was some, yes.

Mr. HARPER. Will this committee work towards a recommendation as far as clean coal technology is concerned?

Mr. MARKEY. Yes. In fact, we have had a number of hearings on that subject, including the Governor of Wyoming, who recommended that we include multi-billions of dollars in clean coal technology. The chairman of this committee is a fierce advocate for that position. In fact, I think because of the kinds of hearings we had in the last 2 years, there is now a consensus between liberals and conservatives in the Congress that the debate is not over whether or not we are going to fund clean coal technologies, but over how much.

So, for example, in the stimulus package, at my recommendation, amongst others, there is $2.4 billion on the House side of the debate for clean coal technology research, carbon capture, and sequestration. On the Senate side, it is about $4 billion. So that is what the debate is over, how many billions we spend, not over whether or not we want to reach a day where clean coal technology is part of the energy mix in our country.

Mr. HARPER. And one final question, have you taken a position as far as carbon tax or cap and trade or, C, none of the above?

Mr. MARKEY. Yes. President Obama has called for a cap and trade system. The Europeans are moving towards a cap and trade system. The cap and trade system which the Europeans are putting in place is based upon the 1990 Clean Air Act, acid rain bill, which was a cap and trade system that ultimately over about a 4-year period pretty much solved the problem.

So I think if we are going to square up with the Europeans and then turn to the Indians and the Chinese with kind of a unified position for them to be included in any ultimate program, I think a cap and trade system makes the most sense because the Europeans already have one. It has already worked for acid rain, sulfur, and nitrogen oxide in our country, and I think if we move to carbon and other greenhouse gases that it makes the most sense to move in that direction?

Mr. HARPER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MARKEY. I appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Harper.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will be in recess until 12:30.

[Recess.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving your testimony.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. BARNEY FRANK, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. FRANK. The Committee on Financial Services has been funded at a much lower level than I think the level of activity and the number of members justifies. We are the second biggest committee. We had asked the Speaker to get smaller, but we got bigger by one. And we have been thrust into a very high level of activity, things

like the automobile issue, financial restructuring, the TARP. And frankly I feel terribly guilty about the people who work for the committee and how overworked they are and overstressed. We, as I said, I think have been as active as any committee in the House, more active than most, not by anybody's design. But because of where we are, we will continue to have that load going forward with the regulatory restructuring, for example, a major set of responsibilities for us.

And so what we are asking for is an increase, frankly, from 16 million to 19 million. It is an 18 percent increase, but I think if you look at other committees of comparable size and degree of activity, that that is appropriate. And I have always felt that the greatest bargain the American people get are the people who work for us, people of enormous talent who could be making a lot more money in other contexts, maybe not so much last year but in a normal situation, and I feel very guilty about the extent to which they are overworked. And as I said, if you look at the agenda, it is a very heavy one.

[The information follows:]

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 131

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts 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 Financial Services in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Financial Services (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $19,224,887.00 for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $9,322,449.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $9,902,438.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

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. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Bachus, would you like to make any statement?

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

Mr. BACHUS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Would you put your mic on, please? Just push that button.

Mr. BACHUS. I don't think there is just anyone in America that doesn't realize the number of issues facing the Financial Services Committee. And as the chairman said, there is a lot of work, the staff is spread pretty thin. We have been given the additional oversight over TARP, which is requiring two full-time staffers on our side, probably more than that on your side.

So with that I will just——

Mr. FRANK. Let me just add, the ranking member makes a very good point. Yesterday and today we have had oversight hearings on the commitment of nearly $3 trillion in Federal funds that had not been anticipated when our budget was funded 2 years ago, because we had the Chairman of the Federal Reserve yesterday talking about $2 trillion, which the Federal Reserve has committed, which they hadn't expected to do before, using authority that hasn't been used since the 1930s. And then today we are having a hearing on the second 350 of the TARP. So those two items—and again, they were totally off anybody's radar screen when we were first funded. It is $2.7 trillion. And we all wish that we could say this is the end of it, but we don't think so.

So that is the basis for our request.

Mr. BACHUS. The government has basically gone into the quasi-banking business over the last year. In fact, if you look back at July of last year, I think Bernanke came to the Hill and painted a fairly rosy picture. And just the tumult over the last year, and it is in every sector of the financial services industry.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Questions, Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Is the Secretary of the Treasury testifying before you folks today?

Mr. FRANK. No, we had the eight—we had and will have—we have been doing—the eight CEOs of the largest institutions to get TARP money. So the Secretary of the Treasury isn't testifying, but his money is.

Mr. LUNGREN. I was just hoping you might have a little more detail than we had yesterday. I was looking forward to what he had to say.

Mr. FRANK. May I make a point again? The ranking member will know this. One of the things that we have gotten is a large number of requests from our colleagues. When our colleagues are hit by their constituents with questions about the TARP or this or that, they forward them to us. We try to respond, but that is another strain on our staff. Frankly we have become to some extent kind of a service bureau for other Members who are being asked by their constituents what about this, that or the other, both in the foreclosure area and in the question of new loans.

Mr. LUNGREN. As I understand it, there is agreement in your committee, one-third, two-thirds——

Mr. FRANK. Two-thirds, one-third. The ranking member can obviously speak for himself. I can't remember a dispute we have had about how to allocate the funds or how to use staff. I believe our staffs get along together very well. There is a great deal of cooperation. So I don't think there is any problem on that score at all.

Mr. LUNGREN. As you mentioned in your opening statement, this is a significant increase request that you are making. It is one of the larger ones of the committees that we have. We have been basically informed by the Appropriations Committee that the range in which they are going to approve for legislative functions does not encompass all the requests that we are having. So we are going to have to make some judgments or leave it up to them, and I think this committee, being the authorizing committee, ought to do the tough work and make those decisions.

If you were required to do a haircut for the request that you have, are there certain priorities you have over others? Is there some guidance you could give us as to how you would approach that, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. FRANK. Well, Mr. Lungren, our request doesn't differentiate. And frankly I would say in our case, the ranking member and I have been more reactive. I wish we had the ability to say here are our priorities. But we have basically spent a year opening the door and people come in and say you have got to pass 700 billion in 3 days and you have got this trillion and we have got these foreclosures. I think there are some things that would suffer if we didn't get the funding. Some of the oversight on some of the ongoing organizational activity would get hurt. We don't differentiate in our requests.

Mr. BACHUS. Just to tell you the range of—today we had testimony consistent from the CEOs, the largest seven financial institutions, which is consistent with what the regulators are saying to us. And they are saying basically we have got to rewrite our entire regulatory system in an effective way. I mean, that seems to be the consensus across the board. Systemic regulator. So we have housing, we have foreclosure issues. The bill that may pass tomorrow has additional housing programs in it. The economy turns down and—I mean, I think we all know the number of foreclosures—not just residential, but commercial and it—probably on a daily basis our staff, because we simply can't do it. We will have CEOs of regional banks that come up here and some of them are as panicked, as I have seen. Developers, car dealers, I mean the auto hearings were in our committee, credit. So normally I could say, you know, credit availability is more of a consideration than lending or—you know, or lending, but is a systemic regulation for housing or foreclosures——

Mr. LUNGREN. Let me just add this because you brought something up, Barney, that is interesting. You say you open the door and things come in. You can't totally anticipate because you are reactive. We have been talking about the fact that while we will approve a 2-year authorization, that it might be good for this committee to have committees come back after a year and take a look at what has happened. We could get an idea, particularly for a committee like yours where you are——

Mr. FRANK. I think respectfully if that had been the case, we would have been here a year ago, because it became clear a year ago because there was an enormous increase in what we were being asked to do.

Mr. LUNGREN. You would not be adverse to that if we ever make that decision?

Mr. FRANK. Not at all. The Federal Reserve has gone from not doing anything to spending—to allocating, lending $1.9 trillion under authority that dates from the 1930s. And a couple of the Republican members point out that there is no oversight, that they are exempted from oversight. We have to change that. But that is a lot of people. And my Chief of Staff reminds me that 96 percent of our budget goes for salaries. We are not spending a lot on sort of fancy stuff.

Mr. LUNGREN. You don't have to trouble too much. The problems come to you.

Mr. BACHUS. I have never over the last 2 years, particularly over the last year and a half, our staff has been here on Saturday and Sunday, at night and as has the Treasury staff and sometimes the Federal Reserve. I get phone calls at home on Sunday from the Federal Reserve officials. But our staff—the other thing that the chairman mentioned—in fact, there was a derogatory article in one of the newspapers that—about Members of Congress simply—you know, they talked about issues that they really didn't grasp. Well, it is absolutely right. When you start talking about credit default swaps and all this stuff, I mean, so educating the committee is just an overwhelming job. It is like——

Mr. FRANK. Would the gentleman yield? Our staffs are available to our colleagues and our colleagues' staffs because this is—I do think if you look at the Congress, the Committee on Financial Services has had a bigger increment of new stuff to deal with than anybody else and it is not going away for a while.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Mr. Capuano.

Mr. CAPUANO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I hope that the chairman and the ranking member take this into account when it comes time to timing me in about 15 minutes. A little light. I just want to echo what the chairman and the ranking member both said. I mean, I am on the committee and I will tell you unequivocally, number one, that the staff does a great job. They do a fantastic job. They answer every question. If they don't know it, they find it out. It is very professional. I can echo that 100 percent. I can also tell you unequivocally that they are completely overworked because of this new stuff. This new stuff is overwhelming to everybody. I don't care how smart you are, how much experience you have had in the past, this is all new stuff for all of us. And the truth is, I am just looking at the numbers and as I count it, even with this request, if the requests were granted dollar for dollar and every other committee got what they asked for, you would still only be the fourth largest budget in the Congress. I personally think that is again in today's world probably not the right place to be.

And it amazes me. I think 30 new positions—I am afraid you might not be able to get that many positions with the money you are asking for. I think you might have to ask for more money at

some point. Because again, as you just said, I think we have had the problem—we definitely have the problem with the SEC, we have the problem with the FDA and the PTO. People who know this stuff can go out and make a lot more money than we can pay them. If we can't keep them, we will be at a disadvantage, particularly in the next year or so.

I for one over the last several years have been very upset how Congress as a whole, both bodies, have ceded our authority and our responsibility, in my opinion, to the Executive branch. I think we continue to do that. I think the only way to get back any of our responsibilities and authority is for us to have the abilities to simply have a discussion, a thoughtful, knowledgeable conversation in debate. And if we don't arm ourselves properly with the appropriate people, we will be at a disadvantage and it will be to our regret and to the regret of our constituents.

Mr. LUNGREN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CAPUANO. Absolutely.

Mr. LUNGREN. Can I put you down as undecided on their budget?

Mr. CAPUANO. You can, but——

The CHAIRMAN. I am confused. Michael told me he wanted to grill you and all you are doing now is patronizing him.

Mr. CAPUANO. Damn right I am patronizing him.

The CHAIRMAN. Why don't you tell him in front of your face what you are willing to do?

Mr. CAPUANO. Oh, no. Because in 5 minutes he is going to have the gavel again and I will have be to nice to him.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Chairman, how long do you anticipate this same level of activity for your committee? Any prediction?

Mr. FRANK. Good question. I believe that at the end of this 2 years, it should have abated for a couple reasons. First of all, we have a major rewrite. You are going to see, I think, the most important rewrite of financial regulatory legislation since the New Deal probably. People may think one way or the other, at least the contemplation. I do think a lot of that will be done by the end of this year, by the end of this Congress. Similarly, we hope that they may be coming back for more money, for something like the TARP. Once again, we don't see that as an ongoing effort.

For a lot of reasons, we hope that there will be an abatement after the current crisis. The current crisis comes more to the Committee on Financial Services than any other. So the answer is if we succeed 2 years from now in getting out of this, then our workload will level off and drop some.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One real quick question. You have the eight CEOs, top CEOs in the country?

Mr. FRANK. The which? Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. How did they arrive?

Mr. BACHUS. By hybrid car, donkey, and I think a few——

Mr. FRANK. I read somewhere that a few——

The CHAIRMAN. Did you say donkey?

Mr. FRANK. I read somewhere that they were taking—well, a couple of them come from New York.

Mr. BACHUS. One of them we picked up at the Greyhound Bus station.

The CHAIRMAN. Hang glide a few to the—listen, you are doing a great job under real tough circumstances. Thank you for giving us your time.

Mr. FRANK. I appreciate it. I come here because I do think our committee has worked very well on a bipartisan basis, including I would note the Parliamentarian of the committee today is the man who was the Parliamentarian when Mr. Oxley was chairman. I think that is an example of the continuity.

Mr. BACHUS. We have bankers from all over. In fact, we get calls from the Senate. I won't say the Senator, but he said, the folks over here tried to explain something to our bankers. They came over, they met with the chairman's staff and my staff and they said to us, these guys, these men and women know what they are doing. I got a call back from a Senator and he said they got the answer they needed.

I appreciate it.

Mr. FRANK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. And thank you for coming here today.

I need you to note that Ms. Lofgren would be here. She is stuck in a delegation meeting. She didn't want to show you any disrespect by not being here as a member of your committee. But we thank you for being here and we welcome you and welcome your testimony.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to be here and see so many friends of mine. My good friend Dan Lungren is here and Zoe Lofgren is on the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Chairman, would you just push that button? There is a button right there for your microphone.

Mr. CONYERS. All right.

Chairman Brady and Mr. Lungren, I am here to talk about our budget request on Judiciary. Lamar Smith has asked me to ask permission to put his testimony in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

[The statement of Mr. Smith follows:]

Statement of Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Lamar Smith
Committee on House Administration
Judiciary Committee Budget for the 111th Congress
February 11, 2009
(Final)

Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the Judiciary Committee's budget request for the 111th Congress.

I support the budget request that Chairman Conyers has submitted. And like Chairman Conyers, I believe a small increase in resources will benefit the Judiciary Committee and its heavy workload. Additional financial resources will also enable majority and minority committee members to work together to better fulfill our legislative and oversight responsibilities.

Those responsibilities include the prevention of criminal and terrorist activity; border security; the protection of our children from sexual predators; and the fair and efficient administration of justice within our federal judiciary.

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

This budget request reflects our shared belief that a highly qualified staff is the cornerstone of the Committee's capacity to consider complicated and often controversial legislation and policy issues that fall within its jurisdiction.

To attract and retain quality staff, the Committee must be able to offer compensation that is at least somewhat competitive with the private sector.

This is particularly challenging when a disproportionate number of committee staff are attorneys with substantial public policy expertise who could command higher salaries from the private sector. I believe these factors justify the salary increases requested in the Judiciary Committee's budget submission.

And I am satisfied that this request will continue to allow the minority to control one third of the Committee's budgetary resources for personnel.

I appreciate Chairman Conyers' efforts on this proposed budget. We agree on the importance of ensuring that the Judiciary Committee has the necessary resources to represent the views of all Americans.

Mr. CONYERS. We have talked about it and we find ourselves in agreement.

As is known, the Judiciary Committee is quite active. We have had responsibilities in the last 6 to 8 years that have called upon us to consider complex activity, the Constitution, amendments, the Department of Justice, immigration laws, trademark, copyright, patents. It goes on and on. We get a large amount of all the legislative measures that come out of the committee. We have reported bills, dozens and dozens of bills, and I don't want to sound like I am bragging about the kind of work we do but you have my statement before you.

The one new thing that has occurred that is taking a lot of our staff and resources is the allegations of misconduct of Federal judges. We have an impeachment inquiry going on concerning a district judge, and so we have had to create a bipartisan task force to work on that.

The bottom line is that we come before the committee to request a budget increase of 6 percent this year and 4 percent the year afterward. Ms. Lofgren. And we have a practice—a custom in our committee to work on a very bipartisan way. It is really more collegial than bipartisan because people take views that may be different from what might generally be considered the accepted position from where their party might be. But out of that tradition has come the practice of shared employees; that is, employees who don't work for one side of the aisle or the other. They are doing common work that is not partisan, and it has worked quite successfully. It started—well, actually it goes back to the Rodino days, the Brooks days, there were some others, chairmen that have always practiced it. And so have I in the one term that I have been privileged to be the Chair of the committee.

So what we are doing now is honing our technology, our workforces. We have equitable arrangements in terms of the allocation of resources and I think our requests are reasonable, and we seek the support of this committee in allowing us to proceed in the manner that we have for so many years before I was chairman. This is the one committee that I have been on all my life in the committee. It was John McCormack in Ways and Means. I got on the committee when I came to the Congress, and finally in the 110th I became its chairman. And I am very privileged to be working with the men and women who serve on the Judiciary Committee, and I hope that our presentation with Lamar Smith will continue to win their approval and yours as well.

So I thank you all very much.

[The statement of Mr. Conyers follows:]

Statement of Chairman John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
before the
House Committee on Administration
February 11, 2009

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

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

In the 110th Congress, over 12% of the total legislative measures introduced were referred to this Committee. The Judiciary Committee reported 84 bills and resolutions to the House, with accompanying legislative reports on all but a few. In addition, a total of 52 bills in which the Judiciary Committee had a jurisdictional interest, were signed into law by the President.

To support these measures, the Committee held 213 hearings of which 156 were oversight hearings and 57 were legislative hearings. The Committee held 28 mark-ups at which it considered 94 public bills.

This Congress will be no different. The Committee will continue to address legislation concerning the Satellite Home Viewer Reauthorization; patent and copyright reform; immigration reform; Federal hate crimes; DC Vote, as well as election reform; strengthening the COPS on the Beat program; subprime mortgage bankruptcy reform; the Free Flow of Information Act; Patriot Act sunset provisions; and, antitrust issues. We also plan to spend considerable time and effort on legislation reauthorizing the Department of Justice and its many programs. This will no doubt be very time, resource, and personnel intensive.

To properly address all of these issues, it will require that many interconnected factors be considered simultaneously. Given the severe negative ramifications that could result without careful and thorough consideration of any of these matters, I believe it is imperative that adequate Committee staff resources be available on these issues.

One of the Committee's vital Constitutional obligations is to investigate the allegations of misconduct by Federal judges. In 2008, the Committee received a referral from the U.S. Judicial Conference concerning Judge G. Thomas Porteous. The House passed H. Res. 15 authorizing the Committee to inquire whether the House should impeach G. Thomas Porteous, a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. To implement this resolution, the Committee authorized a bi-partisan task force to review and investigate the matter. The funds necessary to conduct this investigation have been included in the line item for consultant contracts of the Committee's funding request.

As a result, we are asking for a budget increase of 6% in 2009 and another 4% in 2010. We are also hoping to use the new budget to replace dated equipment, upgrade our Subcommittee hearing room with a modified audio/visual system, and continue to make technolocial upgrades to our web page.

Consistent with past practice, Ranking Member Smith and I have agreed to allocate one-third of the payroll to the Minority, after first deducting shared employees. Last Congress, we reduce the number a shared employees to six from seven, allowing additional payroll funds to the Minority. These shared employees are consistent with the non-partisan, administrative nature of their positions. I appreciate the spirit of cooperation shown by Ranking Member Smith in reaching this accommodation, and look forward to working with him in implementing the final budget this Committee approves.

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

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 144

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Mr. CONYERS (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas) 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 Judiciary in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.**

3 For the expenses of the Committee on the Judiciary
4 (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Com-
5 mittee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there
6 shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House
7 of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses,
8 not more than $19,052,900 for the One Hundred Eleventh
9 Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $9,336,600 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $9,716,300 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

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

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

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

○

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First of all, let me say that I understand that Mr. Smith intended to be here but he was interrupted in his duties today and cannot be here. But he has a statement that he is submitting for the record and it is in support of the request for this committee.

Having served on this committee all my years in Congress, I must say that it is done on a collegial basis. We have maybe the strongest adherence on either side of just about every issue. So in some ways we don't call it bipartisan, but we can call it collegial. And the chairman has always been a gentleman in the way that he operates the committee. And his statement reflects the fact, as does Mr. Smith's, that there is a one-third, two-thirds on all but the shared employees, and that there is an understanding of the allocation of other resources on the committee as well that is acceptable to the minority. I take that to be the case, Mr. Conyers.

Mr. CONYERS. Exactly. And the committee does have a good deal of work. You are above the average in the request overall compared to other committees, believe it or not based on our calculations, but you have explained why, the seriousness of the issues and the multiplicity of the issues we have.

Let me just ask this. We are going to be circumscribed by what we do by what the Appropriations Committee does and the indication we got is that we cannot grant all the full requests made by all the committees and therefore if we just go ahead and do that, the Appropriations Committee will make the judgments as opposed to us. So it is going to fall upon us to make some tough decisions.

If we were to do some haircuts in the judiciary area, are there priorities or is there some methodology that you and Mr. Smith have talked about in terms of where you would have to make adjustments?

Mr. CONYERS. I can't say that we have, Dan. We never talked about what if we didn't get our request. I didn't realize ours were above average in our submission. But he and I could do an examination and get such a list to put in the record just in case we come to that. I don't want to——

Mr. LUNGREN. I don't want you to make you commit on that right now. What I would ask is this, then. There has been some discussion in this committee as we listened to the other committee recommendations or requests that while we will have authorizing legislation with respect to funding for the entire Congress, that we believe it might be appropriate to have the committees come back to us at the end of this fiscal year, at the end of this year, to revisit where we are, both to see how the requests have stacked up against the work that the committee has done and also see if there is changed circumstances with respect to what the committee might need. And I would take it you would not be adverse to that?

Mr. CONYERS. Not at all. Not at all. You know, I have always had a good relationship with this committee and I realize your work—I mean, I understand that you probably get requests that in the aggregate exceed what you are able to do anyway. But I have never had any problem with the decisions that have come out of this committee, nor have I had any problems ever inside the committee in terms of the allocation of resources and funding and

equipment or anything else we have had. And, of course, those of you who are members know this as well as I do, and I am going to abide by what happens.

I just hope that in this big notebook that I skipped over that there is enough logic and rationale for what we are asking for and perhaps a review of any way that we have handled our budget before now that will guide you in terms of us being reasonable about what it is we are doing and how we propose to get there.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry I was a little bit late. I was over in the Capitol trying to assist on the stimulus plan, which looks like it is proceeding in good order.

I would first like to compliment you, Mr. Chairman, for the leadership that you have shown. Oftentimes the issues that are before the committee are contentious, but the relationship you have developed with the ranking member and the other members of the committee has never been contentious. And it is a real credit to you, as well as to Mr. Smith that even as these issues that divide us sometimes come up, it has never been divisive in terms of personality or anything of that nature. And it is really a credit to you, and I appreciate it.

Mr. CONYERS. Thank you.

Ms. LOFGREN. One question I have—and as you know, I chair the Immigration Subcommittee. And I have just taken one of the counsels from the subcommittee to move over to Ethics. So we are going to need to fill that spot. And I want to make sure there will be enough funding actually to do that. And I am also concerned—you have had the greatest detailee from the Department of Justice who has been such a help not only to you but to all of the rest of us, whether it is on FISA or immigration, and he obviously has—may very well go to the administration. So I don't know whether we get another detailee or do we have enough money in the budget if you have to hire somebody to backfill for him? This is a little bit more, but I think it is well justified. I have served on the committee for a long, long time and I want to make sure that the resources that you have are adequate, at least in those two areas that I have mentioned.

Mr. CONYERS. Could I just ask my Chief of Staff, Perry Applebaum. I don't have a specific answer for that, but if I could just check with him. Are we covered in case we lose a staffer to the administration?

Mr. APPLEBAUM. Yeah. The idea would be to treat all the subcommittees equally, but we would hope to get either a replacement detailee or figure out something.

Mr. CONYERS. We would never let the Chair of the Immigration Subcommittee down under any circumstances.

Ms. LOFGREN. I know that that is true, Mr. Chairman. Well, since we are going to be coming back again at the end of the fiscal year, if there is a problem, we will have an opportunity to address it then. And, again, I just say these words with tremendous admiration for you and gratitude that I have had a chance to serve with you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. Chairman Conyers, I just want to tell you it is an honor to serve with you on Judiciary and I just wanted to tell you I appreciate the fair way in which you handle our hearings.

Mr. CONYERS. Thank you. And welcome aboard.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Capuano.

Mr. CAPUANO. I just want to thank you, Mr. Conyers. I think he has done a great job and I think he has restrained himself quite admirably in the last 2 years, and my hope is that restraint comes off in the next 2.

Mr. CONYERS. Could I just say to Mr. Capuano that the one thing that I have learned is that to have an honest exchange of views where there are very different opinions, it is best to be fair. The more reasonable you are, the more likely you are to have your direction acceded to. So I hope I continue to be considered a nice guy because it works better than not being a nice guy. I mean, let us just—maybe I have a different experience from others, but to me to take advantage of the parliamentary process or the numbers of the committee and, you know, straight ahead with the torpedos, it doesn't work. And in an atmosphere where such incredibly important ideas are being examined, frequently constitutional in nature, I mean to have an honest exchange, to know that you can come to a place and your view will be heard and that you will be given consideration regardless of how much it may differ from the chairman's or the majority or whoever, to me makes everybody more amenable to working out sometimes when there has to be a compromise.

So I appreciate always—you know, we are not short of members here that have a Judiciary Committee experience. So I feel I am in safe hands here this afternoon.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also think you are a class guy. Thank you.

Mr. CONYERS. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member. Thank you for being here today, and we look forward to hearing your testimony.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Mr. OBERSTAR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This microphone is really loud or live.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to come and present our budget proposal for the coming 2 years of the 111th Congress. Thank you, Mr. Lungren, for your participation, and that of all the members, and, Mr. Mica, my partner in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. We are the largest committee in the House, the largest committee in either the House or Senate. And in the 110th Congress we made extraordinary progress on the many issues under the jurisdiction of our committee. We passed landmark legislation on rail safety, the first overhaul of rail safety in 100 years; the authorization of Amtrak, including high-speed rail—I call the Mica-Brown—Brown-Mica-Oberstar Passenger Rail Initiative, which is going to transform the landscape of passenger

rail service in America. We had the first override of a Bush administration veto, only the 107th in the history of the Congress, on the Water Resources Development Act. We implemented the 9/11 Commission recommendations, we enacted legislation for energy efficient transportation, public buildings energy efficiency, the greening of the Department of Energy headquarters with a photovoltaic roof, a project that has languished for 12 years—actually 30 years. I started that over 30 years ago. And we had 26 markups of 143 bills and resolutions passed the House, 93 of which became public law.

We held very vigorous, in-depth oversight in investigative work in hearings on the agencies and programs under our jurisdiction. We found serious lapses in the Coast Guard's management of the Deepwater Program, putting to waste literally $100 million of taxpayer funds, the result of which was to change the Coast Guard's contracting program and make it more efficient and more responsive for the future.

We conducted oversight of the FAA's oversight of maintenance by the airlines. We found regulatory lapses and abuses of their partnership program. We held oversight of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, management of the drug and alcohol program, medical oversight of commercial drivers, and Homeland Security Department's management of the Federal Protective Service, which also comes under jurisdiction of our committee.

In all, we had 174 hearings, 1,245 witnesses, 588 hours of hearings, and including I can say, having served on the committee for 44 years as staff and as a Member, the most active 2 years in the committee's history. We will have an equally challenging agenda in the 111th Congress. We have a hearing this afternoon on the FAA reauthorization which we already passed in the 110th Congress in September of 2007. The Senate didn't act on it. We have to update that legislation and make some adjustments. We will have the hearing this afternoon, have the markup following the Presidents Day recess, bring the bill to the House floor for early March so we can get this bill in conference with the Senate before the end of March and get a bill to the President for signature.

We have the new—what I would call a transformational surface transportation bill, a 6-year authorization of the program's highway—bridge and highway safety and transit. In 2005, the committee moved a bill authorizing $286.3 billion. We have to go far beyond that to meet the transportation needs of the country out into the future, and we have had intensive hearings in the Surface Transportation Subcommittee and in full committee on the various proposals from all sectors, evaluating the operational effectiveness of existing law and getting ideas on how to craft a meritorious future for—a transformational future for surface transportation in this country.

We will again revisit the Coast Guard authorization bill which passed the House, but typically didn't pass the Senate. That is an $8.5 billion program. We need to move that legislation again. We are preparing to do that. We will do so expeditiously.

The range of other programs, we will have another Water Resources Development Act to upgrade our inland waterways, provide protection against flood and flood damage and levies, continue our

work in the restoration of the wetlands of the Gulf and the harbors on the Great Lakes where drought has limited the ability to deliver iron ore to our steel mills and coal to lower lake power plants. Those harbors have been 40 to 48 inches low, meaning iron ore carrying vessels, coal carrying vessels, sand and gravel operations have had to make three extra trips per voyage—per season—I am sorry—raising the transportation costs of the materials carried. We need to move the Corps of Engineers ahead vigorously on deepening those ports and overcoming years of neglect of dredging. We will have reauthorization of the Water and Wastewater Treatment State Revolving Loan Program, which passed the Congress—the House in the 110th Congress, but again the Senate didn't act on it.

All these were bipartisan bills that Mr. Mica and I worked on very closely and very cooperatively and productively. Our budget is essentially the same budget as we had in the 110th Congress with a 5 percent cost of living adjustment, which is equal to that of the Federal Government for Federal employees and equal to or just slightly below the Consumer Price Index increase, 5 percent this year and 5 percent for next year. That would be roughly $500,000 a year. And our budget also provides for the Republican members of the committee under Mr. Mica's leadership to receive one-third of the salary budget. We will not have a separate minority budget for travel and equipment as we have done in the past under Republican leadership in the previous Congress. But we have worked on travel requests and needs cooperatively, and we will do so in the future.

And I thank you for your consideration of our request.

[The statement of Mr. Oberstar follows:]

Statement of
The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman

Before the
Committee on House Administration
February 11, 2009

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

Our Committee with 75 Members is the largest Committee in Congress and has many important responsibilities. In the 110th Congress, the Committee made extraordinary progress in enacting landmark legislation on rail safety, Amtrak, and high-speed rail, which had languished for years; enacting the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 ("WRDA 2007") by overriding the President's veto for only 107th time in our nation's history; enacting legislation to implement the 9/11 Commission recommendations; and enacting legislation to promote energy efficient transportation and public buildings and create incentives for the use of alternative fuel vehicles and renewable energy. The Committee held 26 markups, and had 143 bills and resolutions pass the House, of which 93 became Public Laws or concurrent and House resolutions.

In addition to these and many other legislative achievements, the Committee renewed its commitment to actively oversee the agencies and programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee conducted active, in-depth investigations of its agencies and programs and found critical lapses in the Coast Guard's management of the Deepwater program, the Federal Aviation Administration's regulatory oversight and abuses of the regulatory partnership programs, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's oversight of the drug and alcohol testing program and medical oversight of commercial drivers, and the Department of Homeland Security's management of the Federal Protective Service. In total, the Committee conducted 174 hearings, including 1,245 witnesses and approximately 588 hours of testimony – the most active oversight in the Committee's storied history.

In the 111th Congress, we will continue to have as ambitious schedule ahead of us. In the next two years, the Committee will have responsibility for major legislation, providing hundreds of billions of dollars for the development of our transportation and water infrastructure. We expect to pass a major multi-year authorization to upgrade our nation's surface transportation programs; the $287 billion surface transportation authorization bill enacted in

2005 expires in September 2009. We also expect to pass the reauthorization of Federal Aviation Administration programs, including modernization of the Air Traffic Control system and investments in the development of our airports. Also we need to authorize major investments in our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure programs and the United States Coast Guard. The Committee will also pursue rigorous oversight of the tens of billions of dollars distributed to states for transportation and infrastructure investments under the economic recovery legislation that is expected to be signed by the President.

To continue our record of productivity we need to maintain our skilled and technically knowledgeable Committee staff. Most of our budget goes to fund this staff. We are respectful of the need to economize, and so our request is essentially for the same budget we had in the 110th Congress, with a 5% increase each year to provide for COLAs and additional staff and Committee needs.

Our budget request contemplates that the Minority will receive 1/3 of the salary budget. We also propose to continue the approach of the past fourteen years, where there will not be a separate Minority budget for travel and equipment, but we will make every effort to meet their needs. I was

satisfied with this approach when we were in the Minority, and I am confident that the Minority will feel that we have treated them fairly.

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

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 124

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR 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 Transportation and Infrastructure in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $21,030,831.20 for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $10,258,942.05 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $10,771,889.15 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

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. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Mica.

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

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And it is good to be back, and I am glad that you have risen to the position that you have, having been up on the dais and served on the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. MICA. I always like your style. No BS. You have cut right to the chase and got things done. I appreciate what you have done so far in that regard. I truly mean that.

I was looking at Thomas here. How come you don't have that drape? I remember Thomas and Steny Hoyer, you all—I don't know if you all were here when they used to go at it. Dear God, I felt like I was a referee in a food fight.

The CHAIRMAN. We have been getting——

Mr. MICA. Lungren, he is a lovable ranking member. But thank you all. And Jim Oberstar has really said what needs to be said on behalf of the committee. We support the request.

I will say with a caveat on the increase, we are trying to ask people to cut back and if we had to go to a lower increase, I could be supportive of that and I think we ought to look at the end—I know you are going to look at the end of the year and see what we can do to tighten our belt, too. So I would be supportive. Travel, we do have our little issues on that, but we try to work them out. I wish we had a little bit more independence on that on the minority side. But it is the biggest committee in Congress. We are very proud of our work record and bipartisanship, reaching across the aisle and getting things done. So I am with Mr. Oberstar on this one.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thanks very much. And I appreciate the two of you and the work that you do and the testimony that you presented.

So the one-third, two-third there is no disagreement on that, but there is some disagreement on travel? I am trying to figure out what we are talking about here.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I simply continued the practice of the Republican majority in previous years which, there are certain limitations on travel by minority, and I kept that practice in place.

Mr. LUNGREN. Did you talk about that? Did you two work on that?

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Mica has a travel request. He comes on behalf of the ranking members. We also had a majority member who was not a subcommittee Chair, make a request for congressional delegation travel authority, and I denied it because only subcommittee chairs and ranking members have congressional travel delegations, official delegation travel with the committee. So that has been our practice. When minority members have requested—minority ranking members have requested travel authority on specific committee business, Mr. Mica and I have had discussion; we have worked it out.

Mr. LUNGREN. Mr. Mica?

Mr. MICA. We are working on it.

Mr. LUNGREN. Okay. We are working on it.

Let me ask this: Because of the economic uncertainty we are in right now and because all the requests of all the committees, if we were to grant them all, it would be in excess of what the Appropriations Committee is going to allow us to have. So either we exercise our discretion here and try and figure out where we have to give haircuts, or we just leave it up to Appropriations. And we think we have the responsibility to do that, so we are going to exercise our best judgment.

However, in consideration of that and while we make decisions with respect to the 2-year authorization, there has been discussion on this committee to have the committees come back to us at the end of the fiscal year so we can revisit where you are, how you have proceeded, how the plan that you have is working out in terms of funding, and see what we might look at for the following year—if there were any changes that were appropriate.

Would the two of you entertain that as something you would not be adverse to?

Mr. OBERSTAR. I would welcome that opportunity. I think it is a great idea. In our committee we are requiring that kind of oversight and accountability for all the Federal agencies under the jurisdiction of our committee in the stimulus initiative. This is our waterfall of compliance, of accountability. Every 30 days we are going to require the relevant Federal agencies come before our committee collectively and report on the contracts awarded, the personnel at work, the job descriptions, the payroll.

We are going to do it every 30 days, so if you want to have accountability——

Mr. LUNGREN. Not every 30 days, but——

Mr. OBERSTAR. I will be happy to join my colleague in the congressional hip replacement caucus in that endeavor.

Mr. LUNGREN. We do have—a lot of people don't realize that every committee does submit a report on a monthly basis. But a lot of that appears to be boilerplate. I am not criticizing any particular committee, but I think there hasn't been enough focus on that.

But one of the things—some of us have discussed it might be important to have the committees come back at the end of the year so we can revisit what we are talking about here today.

Mr. OBERSTAR. We will have a great record for you to show.

Mr. LUNGREN. I appreciate that.

Mr. MICA. I might say that this year in particular is probably going to be one of our busiest because we do our 6-year reauthorization, and we probably—I have already ramped up, I know, with one person. We may have to ramp up with additional to get through this.

So we are going to be very busy this year. This is our busiest season in the committee. But looking at it afterwards, I think, just like everybody else, we need to be frugal with taxpayer dollars and revisit it.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Ms. Lofgren? Mr. Capuano?

Mr. CAPUANO. I just want to echo the chairman's comments. I know how hard they are working and how good the staff is. I am

looking forward to the coming year, I know that. I think we are going to get a lot of work done. Everybody here is going to be happy, and America will be happy when we are done.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. Just one question. And first, thank you, the two of you, for the excellent work you have done and are going to do.

I think we are about to come to a conclusion on the Recovery Act, and certainly there will be infrastructure funds in that, some of it transportation. We can argue about whether it is enough or not. But I am wondering in your oversight plan whether you are going to take a look at how that funding stream is being put out the door and that sort of thing. Is that in your work plan?

Mr. OBERSTAR. That is exactly what I said a moment ago.

Ms. LOFGREN. That is what you meant on that?

Mr. OBERSTAR. Yes. We have put the State DOTs, the municipal transit agencies, the metropolitan planning organizations on notice to expect oversight hearings from us, and for them to prepare reports, and specify exactly what we want in that report.

And as I said, we had hearings last year, and another one in October, had another in January and brought in the State DOTs. And they all understand, and the transport agencies and the airport authorities all understand that they are accountable.

Half of that $30 billion has to be out the door in 90 days, under contract or obligated, or they lose the money and it goes to other States that can use it; and we are going to rigorously oversee this. It is not difficult. With flash drives and accountability programs in most of the States—not all of them—we will be able to have almost a day-to-day, certainly week-to-week, accounting of what the States are doing.

This is Illinois DOT. They have a planning cycle that is on their flash drive, and they will have bid lettings every 2 weeks from 10 days after signing of the bill into law, from the time the Office of Management and Budget allocates money to the Federal Highway Administration, and within that 7 days.

Within 10 days the State DOTs will be notified by Federal Highway Administration of their proportional allocation under the program, under existing SAFETEA law, and then they will begin the process of bid lettings. We are going to be following those and have full committee oversight reports on all of the agencies—the Corps of Engineers, the FAA, the Coast Guard; they didn't leave any money in the St. Lawrence Seaway. Federal public buildings, GSA is going to report to us.

It is going to take a lot of work.

Mr. MICA. Let me just add, Mr. Oberstar and I, we have been working on stimulus since last fall, I think it was. In our discussions, too, we are very committed to this not being a TARP, one where you wake up and say, Where the hell did the money go, and nobody has an answer.

So we are both committed to very rigorous oversight, and that will take some personnel.

Ms. LOFGREN. If I may, that sounds terrific. And I am assuming that the oversight results will be put on your Web sites so all Americans can see where we are.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Oh, yes.

Ms. LOFGREN. And one of the things—as you are aware, many of the cities and counties are very concerned that States might have a small carrying fee. And it seems to me that your oversight is one of the guarantees that we have, that that concern is not realized and that the money actually does flow to the projects as we have intended.

So I do thank you very much.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I will read you some language here:

"The following powers and duties: A division of progress investigation to ensure the honest execution of the work program, requiring uniform, periodic reports of progress, appropriate measures to eliminate delay, recommend termination of projects where they are not providing the jobs warranting their continuance."

That is from Franklin Roosevelt's order in 1935 implementing the Works Progress Administration.

Ms. LOFGREN. And that will be your guide?

Mr. OBERSTAR. It is not new, but we are updating it.

And Mr. Mica and I are completely in accord that we are for infrastructure as stimulus, but we are also for accountability, measuring progress, ensuring that the jobs are done.

And I have told these DOTs—and Mr. Mica was with me on this—this is dress rehearsal for the next authorization. If you don't do it right now, if you don't get this program right, then how can we trust you to get it right under the 6-year program?

Ms. LOFGREN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Mrs. Davis, questions?

Mrs. DAVIS of California. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Oberstar.

Thank you, Mr. Mica. Thank you for being here.

Good afternoon.

Mr. TOWNS. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Chairman Towns and Ranking Member Issa, thank you for appearing before us today and we look forward to hearing your testimony.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. TOWNS. Thank you very much. I am pleased to testify with the committee's ranking member, Darrell Issa. As the new Chair of the committee, I have worked closely with Mr. Issa in developing this budget, and I intend to continue the committee's tradition of allocating one-third of the committee's budget to the minority.

I know Mr. Issa feels as strongly as I do about the importance of the committee's oversight agenda, and he will discuss his specific budget concerns separately. However, the ranking member, and I intend to work in a bipartisan fashion on a number of important oversight and legislative issues, such as the economic recovery legislation now under consideration by Congress and the Troubled Asset Relief Plan.

These two programs alone will cost the American taxpayers over $1.5 trillion. An article in Monday's Washington Post discussed the potential for billions of dollars of waste in the implementation of the recovery legislation. In view of the inadequate Federal procure-

ment staff available at most agencies, the committee will play a critical role in helping to limit the mistakes that were made during the rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina, when only about 30 percent of the contracts met the requirements for full and open competition, and in Iraq where frequent overcharges to the Federal Government were commonplace.

Last week, Elizabeth Warren, head of the congressional oversight panel, testified that the lack of transparency in the Treasury Department led it to overpay $78 billion—that is "B" as in boy—for the purchase of banking assets.

The committee staff has already begun to work with the special TARP inspector general to develop an effective partnership to increase transparency and accountability in this important program. The current economic crisis, the fragmented financial regulatory system and inadequate Federal acquisition staff make the work of our committee more important than it has perhaps ever been.

We have an aggressive oversight agenda. However, we won't be able to do what the Congress and the public expects from us without the adequate funding that is necessary. To meet our oversight and legislative demands, the committee is requesting a 10.9 percent increase over last Congress.

I understand that House Administration has a difficult task of restoring the committee budget while balancing the number of competing priorities. If budgets were not so tight, we would be asking for more money in view of the committee's agenda.

As you consider our funding requests, I would ask you to consider three points:

First, the savings that we anticipate in identifying waste, fraud and abuse will more than pay for itself;

Second, the manpower we need to accomplish this savings is labor intensive and requires a significant investment in high-quality staff; and

Finally, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is incurring costs associated with the transition between Chairs that we also have to consider.

And thank you for this opportunity to testify before the committee, and I look forward to working with you in the 111th Congress as we go out and identify waste, fraud and abuse.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The statement of Mr. Towns follows:]

Statement before the Committee on House Administration
Funding Request for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
111th Congress
Edolphus Towns, Chairman
February 11, 2009

I am pleased to testify with the Committee's Ranking Member, Darrell Issa. As the new Chair of the Committee, I have worked closely with Mr. Issa in developing this budget, and I intend to continue the Committee's tradition of allocating one-third of the Committee budget to the minority. I know Mr. Issa feels as strongly as I do about the importance of the Committee's oversight agenda, and he will discuss his specific budget concerns separately. However, the Ranking Member and I intend to work in a bipartisan fashion on a number of important oversight and legislative issues, such as the economic recovery legislation now under consideration by Congress, and the Troubled Asset Relief Program. These two programs alone will cost the American Taxpayers over 1.5 trillion dollars.

An article in Monday's Washington Post discussed the potential for billions of dollars of waste in the implementation of the recovery legislation, in view of the inadequate federal procurement staff available at most agencies. The Committee will play a critical role in helping to limit the mistakes that were made during the rebuilding efforts after hurricane Katrina, when only about 30 percent of the contracts met the requirement for full-and-open competition, and in Iraq where frequent overcharges to the federal government were common place.

Last week, Elizabeth Warren, head of the Congressional Oversight Panel testified that the lack of transparency at the Treasury Department led it to overpay by 78 billion dollars for the purchase of banking assets. The Committee staff has already begun to work with the special TARP Inspector General to develop an effective partnership to increase transparency and accountability in this important program.

The current economic crisis, the fragmented financial regulatory system; and the inadequate federal acquisition staffs make the work of our Committee more important than it has perhaps ever been. We have an aggressive oversight agenda. However, we won't be able to do what the Congress and the public expects from us without adequate funding.

To meet our oversight and legislative demands, the Committee is requesting a 10. 9 percent increase over last Congress. I understand that House Administration has a difficult task of restoring the Committee budgets, while balancing a number of competing priorities. If budgets were not so tight, we would be asking for more money in view of Committee's agenda.

As you consider our funding request, I would ask you to consider three points. First, the savings we anticipate in identifying waste, fraud and abuse will more than pay for itself. Second, the manpower we need to accomplish this savings is labor intensive, and requires a significant investment in high quality staff. Finally, the committee is incurring costs associated with the transition between chairs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before the Committee and I look forward to working with you in the 111th Congress.

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 119

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Mr. TOWNS 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 Oversight and Government Reform in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.**

3 For the expenses of the Committee on Oversight and
4 Government Reform (hereafter in this resolution referred
5 to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff
6 salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts
7 of the House of Representatives for committee salaries
8 and expenses, not more than $23,953,226 for the One
9 Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $11,445,179 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $12,508,047 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

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. Issa.

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

Mr. ISSA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Lungren.

I join with the chairman in this request. The request is intended to be at a rate of inflation set by this committee and the Appropriations Committee. We felt, in light of the huge budget deficits, we had very little choice but to live within our means and find ways to work better.

Certainly one of the efficiencies that we hoped would allow us to live within our means is Chairman Towns and myself leveraging our staff to work together. Rather than doing two things, we are going to be often working together, sharing information. We believe this will give us the ability to operate more efficiently. That spirit of bipartisanism started today, when we had our organizational meeting and moved a number of important pieces of legislation out of our committee expeditiously and with—in every single case, although with amendments, unanimously.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, as you know, we are the committee of primary oversight. And although the Rules of the House now have added additional requirements for every committee, we are the committee that has no conflict of interest. We are not the primary legislative committee for almost any of the things that we do oversight on; particularly, we are not the legislative committee for TARP, for the stimulus, for appropriations in general; and yet our oversight is the most independent. We are the committee that can transcend jurisdictional lines that often cause one committee to demand a sequential referral, even if they only have a small amount, or to be offended when they don't get a piece of it or, often, hold two hearings. We believe we are the most efficient place to look over these funds.

To that extent, Mr. Chairman, I have sent you a letter which I hope you have had an opportunity to review. Recognizing that additional funds are not available, our letter does ask for an authorization of 30 additional positions. We recognize that without additional funds we may not be able to fill all those positions; but given the authorization, the ability to look over the $700 billion worth of TARP funding, the stimulus package, TARP II, and moneys beyond, we may be able to creatively find people who, in fact, can work on a temporary basis for less money.

So over the next 2 years, we would hope to recruit on a bipartisan basis to fill those slots with as many people as we can find who share with the chairman and myself the vision that government only does well when government looks after and oversees, and that the private sector does not improve based on hearings alone. They improve on real investigations, something that our committee is uniquely capable to do.

So I would ask respectfully that you consider the chairman's mark for the funding, which is limited to the rate of inflation—or at least our perception, and it may be increased or decreased based on yours—but that you grant us those supplemental slots so we can work together to find people within our means that would allow us

to do more of the work necessitated by this very difficult series of expenditures that Congress has felt necessary to make.

With that, we welcome your questions.

[The statement of Mr. Issa follows:]

Opening Statement of Oversight and Government Reform Committee
Ranking Member Darrell Issa
Before House Administration on the 111th Budget Request
February 11, 2009

Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren, I would like to thank you for allowing us to testify today on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee's budget for 111th Congress.

Before I talk about our needs for the next two years I want to commend my Chairman, Ed Towns, for his work on preparing this budget and the fact that he included us in his deliberations. I personally support an increase no more than the rate of inflation but I understand and recognize Chairman Town's prerogative to set the Committee's funding request at levels he thinks is proper to conduct oversight of our federal government and its programs.

Mr. Chairman, we are the primary Oversight Committee of the House. Our Committee has a proud history of conducting oversight when and where others cannot. Our Committee is able to conduct fair and aggressive oversight and investigate wrongdoing because of our people and expertise. Unlike some Committees who may get to close to those they legislate, we are not wedded to any particular program or agency. Our oversight has meaning and when needed, we can use our unique tools to get to the bottom of government waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement.

Our Committee will continue to conduct meaningful oversight and when appropriate recommend the appropriate reform remedies to resolve long standing problems that make our government inefficient and ineffective. This budget reflects our needs as a Committee when we conduct business under ordinary circumstances. But I think we all agree these are extraordinary times under extraordinary circumstances.

We are in the midst of massive federal intervention in our country's economy. A $700,000,000,000 tax-payer funded toxic asset relief program; a nearly $1,000,000,000,000 tax-payer funded economic stimulus package; and $8,000,000,000,000 in federal-government backed guarantees to many of our financial institutions. This is just the start, as it is likely we will see additional funding measuring in the trillions, allocated over the next two years. The problem we are faced with ensuring all this money comes with inadequate oversight. Even as we begin to obligate the second TARP tranche of $350,000,000,000, we are learning that the previous Administration overpaid $78,000,000,000 for assets as part of the program. Vigorous oversight of just the TARP program would likely have prevented this costly mistake and we must do everything possible to prevent this from happening in the future. The bailout and stimulus are so broad in nature that our Committee is uniquely positioned to oversee every aspect and connect the dots in order to get an overall picture that other Committees, conducting oversight on their own, will miss.

Therefore, I am asking this Committee to increase our Committee staff slots by 30, solely as a prudent measure to adequately oversee the nearly $10 trillion in federal financial assistance. These 30 slots are temporary to this Congress and will be used to ensure targeted oversight of the most important aspect we are facing as a Congress and as a Country. The American public demand we properly oversee these federal programs and funding mechanisms so the monies spent go to the greater good and not squandered. We can send a message to our constituents that we hear them, we understand their concerns and as a Congress we are moving to address this issue.

I hope you will agree with my request and increase our Committee staff to meet the needs of these extraordinary times.

With that I welcome your questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Lungren.

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

I thank the two of you for your testimony. And I would like to pick up on something that you mentioned, Mr. Issa, and that is that under the new House rules that we have adopted, every committee is supposed to engage in vigorous and continual oversight. That is essentially a pledge that is being made under the rules.

In fact, this committee, since we have responsibility over all the committees in terms of budget, probably need to reflect on that. So I guess the question would be, as we are attempting to try and perform oversight, and we are also facing a tough economic circumstance right now, what do we say to the public with respect to your committee in doing oversight versus the other committees? Isn't it an example of committees getting in the way of one another? Or is it a way of letting the authorizing committees off the hook for their oversight?

How do you view it as a complimentary—I guess that is the word I would use—complimentary effort by your committee vis-a-vis the regular authorizing committees?

Mr. TOWNS. Right. Well, first of all, I think there is a lot of waste, there is a lot of fraud and a lot of abuse. I think it is enough for everybody to go look. And we don't have a problem with that.

However, it is our obligation and the responsibility of our committee because that is our function; and of course, we plan to carry it out, and we will be assisting others because of the fact that that is our role. And, of course, our ability to be able to subpoena, to pull people in, I think that also will help us to be able to facilitate these things.

But the point is that waste, I think, fraud and abuse is something that is going on; and a lot of it is because of the way certain agencies are structured. They have the inspector general in the agency, and the way that the inspector general has to report to the director or the Secretary; and of course, if the inspector general is looking at something that the director or the Secretary does not want the person to look at, they can cut the budget, terminate him, do all kinds of things.

So our committee would be able to sort of go in and look at this and be able to pick it up.

So one thing we hope to do is to be able to make IGs independent. I think that is important, and that is something that we can push from our committee; and also the possibility of legislation, as well.

Mr. ISSA. Ranking Member Lungren, basically we are a committee that spends about 10 percent of its resources, majority and minority, on administrative personnel. About 10 percent on legislation that falls within our purview, primarily postal, and about 80 percent—50 percent directly on investigators.

So I think the answer to your question is, we hire primarily attorneys to do investigations, and those investigations are not just used by our committee. They are referred to every committee of the Congress because our research becomes the source material often for their legislation.

And as the chairman said, the Bush administration, for example, left 13,000 reports of waste, fraud and abuse unanswered when they left office. There is more than enough for all of the committees in Congress to dig into.

Mr. LUNGREN. Let me just ask this question, because I could get asked this by my constituents, and it was kind of a red flag out there.

They say, what are you guys doing bringing baseball players up and asking them about using steroids? And then they say, now I see Congress wants to get in the business of deciding whether or not the NCAA ought to have a playoff. And what I am saying is, those big headlines came out of your committee with respect to baseball. How do I share with them, that we are not—not that I think steroids are good in baseball. Believe me, I was the first Member of Congress ever to introduce legislation, making steroids on the controlled substance list.

But what do I say to my constituents that then say, well, that is the committee that did that, and you gave them a raise, and so forth? How do I tell them your focus is really going to be on oversight?

Mr. TOWNS. Yeah. Actually, we were going to be looking at TARP. We are concerned about that. I really don't think that baseball players should use steroids, but that is not something that I would give priority to. I think there are so many other problems out there that need to be addressed, and I think that we need to address them.

When we look at the fact that people are unemployed because of waste, fraud and abuse, I think that we need to go after that first. And then if we have any time after we get rid of all waste, fraud and abuse, then we would go look at steroids and go look at—but the point is, I don't see that as a priority for this committee at this particular time.

Mr. LUNGREN. See, I think if the public just thinks you are doing oversight and tough oversight, you will have no problem with the support of the public, and I won't be getting questions from my constituents as to why you are doing what you are doing; and I just wanted to hear that.

And just one last thing——

Mr. ISSA. By the way, that has been referred to the Energy and Commerce Committee. We no longer claim jurisdiction on baseball and steroids.

Mr. LUNGREN. I won't get into that.

Mr. TOWNS. We need money to help us with the transition.

Mr. LUNGREN. There has been discussion on this committee about the fact that we are, in a sense, making these decisions for a 2-year authorization expenditure for—at a time when we have tough economic circumstances. And we are really not sure of what the future holds for us in the next couple of years.

So our thought—at least we have been discussing this on the committee today—is that we would ask the committees to come back to us at the end of the fiscal year and we would review how you spent your money, what your priorities are, have circumstances changed and you need different priorities and some flexibility. Would you be adverse to that?

Mr. TOWNS. No. I would be glad to do it.

Mr. ISSA. We would be glad to come back and give you a count of the tens or hundreds of billions of dollars we can show our money leveraged in savings to the government. Absolutely.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren, Mrs. Davis, any questions?

Thank you both of you for coming. Appreciate your time.

Mr. TOWNS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ISSA. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Good afternoon. The Committee on Education and Labor, Chairman Miller and Ranking Member McKeon. We appreciate your time coming here and testifying in front of us, and we are looking forward to your presentation.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My senior Republican member, Mr. McKeon, said our goal is to get you back on schedule. We will see what we can do.

The CHAIRMAN. That will go a long way in our decision-making.

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

Mr. MILLER. Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before the committee and to present our budget requirements to this committee for funding.

The budget request that we submit today represents a 9.7 percent increase over the committee's allocation of the 110th Congress. This increase is reflective of the committee's actual spending practices, based upon spending over the last 2 years, and near utilization of the full number of staff slots in the 110th Congress. Excluding the cost of living increase, this amount represents a 1.1 percent increase over the committee's allocation in the previous Congress.

The workload of the 111th Congress will surpass that of the very productive 2 years this committee had when we doubled the number of hearings, held 19 markups and saw 54 pieces of committee-referred legislation become law.

The committee has again planned a vigorous legislative and oversight schedule in this Congress, including the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind, the National and Community Service Act, child nutrition programs, and the Workforce Investment Act.

The committee also plans to play a major role in the formation of health care reform plans of President Obama's administration, and work to better ensure the retirement security of America's workers.

This budget reflects that workload of this committee, and I believe that we can carry it out. As I pointed out, the largest increase in the budget request we submit today is the cost of living adjustment of 4.78, calculated by the Office of Personnel Management, for the personnel expenses in the first and second sessions of the 111th Congress.

And now I would like to turn it over to Mr. McKeon.

[The information follows:]

Statement of the
CHAIRMAN GEORGE MILLER
Committee on Education and Labor
Before the Committee on House Administration
Committee Budget Request
February 11, 2009

Chairman Brady and members of the Committee, I appreciate having the opportunity to appear this morning with the Committee's Senior Republican member, Congressman McKeon in support of our joint funding request for this Congress.

While Congressman McKeon and I sometimes disagree on legislative matters before our Committee, we both agree that this budget request represents a necessary and prudent financial blueprint for the Committee's activities in the 111th Congress.

I would like to thank Mr. McKeon for his support of the Committee funding once again this Congress.

The budget request we submit today represents a 9.7 percent increase over the Committee's allocation in the 110th Congress. This increase is reflective of the Committee's actual spending practices (based on spending over the last 2 years) and the near utilization of nearing its full number of staff slots in the 110th Congress.

Excluding a cost of living increase, this amount represents only a 1.1 percent increase over the Committee's allocation from the previous Congress.

The workload of the 111th Congress will surpass the very productive last 2 years of the Committee in which we nearly doubled the number of hearings, held 19 markups and saw 54 pieces of Committee referred legislation become law.

The Committee has again planned a vigorous legislative and oversight schedule for this Congress, including reauthorizing the No Child Left Behind Act, National and Community Service Act, child nutrition programs, and our nation's job training programs through the Workforce Investment Act.

The Committee also plans to play a major role in the formation of the health care reform plans of the Obama Administration and work to better ensure the retirement security of America's workers.

This budget also ensures that the Minority has sufficient resources to adequately staff and prepare the Republican Members of the Committee. Except for shared and administrative personnel, the breakdown of staff is two-thirds Majority and one third Minority. The same is true of other financial resources for equipment and other expenses.

The largest increase in the budget request we submit today is a cost-of-living adjustment of 4.78 percent, as calculated by the Office of Personnel Management, for personnel expenses for the first and second sessions of the 111th Congress.

This request is necessary to ensure the Committee can continue to maintain staffing levels necessary to respond to the workload this Congress.

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

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 126

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Education and Labor in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself and Mr. MCKEON) 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 Education and Labor in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Education and Labor (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 $17,792,110 for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $8,657,750 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $9,134,360 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

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. Ditto. Ditto.

Mr. MCKEON. Look at the Californians. We can take over this place.

The CHAIRMAN. I am all by myself.

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

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Committee on House Administration.

I appreciate that Chairman Miller has followed the past practice of the committee in the budget development process and has provided me total autonomy over how my share of the budget is used. I am also pleased that our proposed budget meets the goal of providing one-third of the funding and staffing to the minority.

I am also pleased that Chairman Miller has maintained our past practice of sharing our information technology staff and additional support staff. This will continue to ensure that both majority and minority stay current with advances in technology.

Our committee anticipates an extremely active agenda in the 111th Congress. A funding increase will enable us to carry out the necessary functions of a successful committee, which in turn will allow us to fulfill our responsibility to this Congress and the people of the United States.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I would be happy to respond to any questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nice to have both of you here.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you.

Mr. LUNGREN. And it is nice to be able to find agreement on another subject with you, George—that you think Buck is a good guy. That is great.

Let me just ask this: We basically have been informed that the Appropriations Committee is not going to grant—if we were to grant every request that is made here, in total, that would be in excess of what the appropriating committee is going to give us. So we either have to say we are not going to exercise any judgment whatsoever and they can make it, or we can do it as the authorizing committee. I think we ought to do that.

In that regard, we have to make some tough decisions. And my question is, given the fiscal approach that you used, trying to keep costs down and so forth, if we had to give a haircut to your committee, along with some other committees, in terms of the request, is there a prioritization that you have established that you would make a judgment with respect to that?

Would it be across the board? Can you give me some idea on that?

Mr. MILLER. I don't know that I can intelligently answer that question today. But, obviously, if that is the situation we find ourselves in and we recognize this is the first step in the process, and then, you are going to receive all the testimony you have received,

and you will have to sit down and make some tough decisions about it.

And I know there are committees that have asked for expansion and changes that are far beyond what we are talking about. We will just have to see how we live in that universe.

But I think Buck and I both would be prepared to do our share if that is necessary. We have tried to run a pretty tight ship. I think we had the lowest requests coming in the last two Congresses and we have been able to meet our workload.

We, obviously, like I think most of the committees, expect a heightened workload with the new administration, with the kinds of programs that are being put before the Congress. We would certainly take a look at that, but I don't know how I would prioritize that.

I would certainly want to talk to the staff before doing it. But either way, we would figure out how we would live with it.

Mr. MCKEON. One thing that I have found is, every committee operates differently. We have all served on different committees. And one thing I would like to point out is, our committee is really like two committees. We have all education law; we have all labor law. So you really need staff that are skilled in both areas.

So if you could just keep that in mind as you go through the process, I think it would be helpful to us.

Mr. LUNGREN. That is an interesting point you made, Mr. Chairman. You were among the lowest. I reviewed this in the last three Congresses. Your committee is actually third lowest cumulative of all the committee requests that we have had, that were actually granted. So you have been in that ballpark; there is no doubt about it.

Mr. MILLER. Boehner was very cheap when I was in the minority. To step up, I would have had to take a big step.

Mr. LUNGREN. Well, actually, I go back to some of the years—if I just include his years along with that, you have actually brought it down a little bit. It is hard to believe.

Mr. MILLER. I am a fiscally responsible guy.

Mr. LUNGREN. I know. I have known you for a long time, George. I am not sure I would always put that there. I appreciate that. I learn something new about people every day.

There has been some discussion on this committee about asking committees to come back to see us at the end of the fiscal year because we are making the authorization for 2 years—we are in tough budget times now; we may be—what the scenario is now is not going to be what it is a year from now—and that we would have a chance to take a look. You would have a chance to say, here is how we followed through, based on the request that we have made; here are some different circumstances that have arisen.

Would you be adverse to coming back before the committee at the end of the year?

Mr. MILLER. No. No. I mean, I am trying to think quickly what that would mean.

Mr. LUNGREN. I guess, years ago you got a 1-year authorization.

Mr. MILLER. I think we did. I think you are right.

Mr. LUNGREN. Now it is 2 years.

Mr. MILLER. This is a better process. But these are unusual times. We would have to keep that in mind, I think, as we go through the year.

Mr. LUNGREN. That is what I mean.

The CHAIRMAN. It also may be a good opportunity to give you some more money that we couldn't give you in the first year in the second year.

Mr. MILLER. I have thought of that.

Mr. LUNGREN. That is the ying and the yang here. Very good.

And you are satisfied in terms of—Mr. McKeon, in terms of the budget allocation, one-third/two-thirds, and the relationship you have with the chairman on those kinds of issues?

Mr. MCKEON. Yes. I wish I could get him to come my way on some other issues.

Mr. LUNGREN. I know that. I thought his statement was very understated when he said, while Congressman McKeon and I sometimes disagree on legislative matters.

Mr. MILLER. We start every legislative journey holding hands on the road to bipartisanship. We make periodic judgments.

Mr. LUNGREN. That is like saying that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is over 6-feet tall. It is true, but it doesn't give you quite the full picture.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. I appreciate the modest request, given the enormous efforts that face the committee. And I especially—I assume from your testimony that the No Child Left Behind legislation is going to be revisited. That is a huge amount of work.

So I just want to commend you both for facing up to those responsibilities with such a prudent budget request.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you. That is why I think Mr. Brady's suggestion of seeing you at the end of the year might make some sense.

Ms. LOFGREN. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Mrs. Davis.

Mrs. DAVIS OF CALIFORNIA. I was just going to echo Ms. Lofgren's concern about No Child Left Behind, and make sure that the resources are there to really do the work that is required, because we expect great things from you.

Mr. MILLER. We would like to get it done in the first year. I have not yet had a casual conversation with the new Secretary, but we have both made reservations with one another to talk about this as soon as we get through this immediate crisis. Hopefully that will be the schedule. So we will be done in this first session of Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Chairman Miller.

Ranking Member McKeon, thank you.

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member McHugh. We appreciate you being here today.

We do have a vote on. We just hope that maybe we can get through your testimony and get through your presentation in time to make this vote. We just got a call for a vote, so I think we can probably get this done.

I appreciate it. Looking forward to your testimony.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. IKE SKELTON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Mr. SKELTON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lungren. We appreciate being allowed to testify today. As you know, my partner and my friend, John McHugh, is with us, the ranking gentleman. We have a funding resolution and supporting material before you. So let me make some brief comments, if I may.

In simple terms, we request a budget of $18 million, what is needed to ensure the Armed Services Committee can fulfill its substantial oversight responsibilities while retaining a highly technical professional staff. We have a very unique committee, and our charge is very unique. We have the responsibility to oversee a military actively engaged in two wars. Yearly, we authorize over 50 percent—I will say it again—over 50 percent of the discretionary portion of the entire Federal budget. And overseeing the new administration change and strategy for two wars, and helping to decide the proper scope and the roles and budget will call for substantial exchanges.

We have a huge mandate. And because 60 of our colleagues, including two members of this committee, have chosen to serve with us, making the Armed Services Committee one of the largest committees in the House, at the same time its relative level of resources both in terms of staff positions and funding allocations does not fully reflect our responsibilities.

Now Mr. Chairman, it was before your time, but under Chairman Les Aspin, the Armed Services Committee was known for its oversight and its analytical work; and I remember very well being down in front during those days.

But it was the run-up to the Gulf War. The committee at that time had 82 staff members, and today our staff is 69.

And we thank the committee for the help that you gave us last year, and we are appreciative of this. And yet there are only three other committees that have smaller ratios of staff-to-committee members than we. And I would certainly hope that you could be of help to us.

In the last Congress we had 177 hearings. We also passed an outstanding National Defense Authorization Act, which is a four-decades-long tradition of getting an authorization bill enacted into law.

We are bipartisan; every staff member works for everyone. However, we do have the minority controlling 14 of those slots. And we frankly need more money and more attention.

We are asking for a total of $18 million, $8.3 million in 2009 and $9.7 million in 2010. And this represents a real increase in where we are today; yet if you compare this to other committees and compare that to our responsibilities, we still would rank lower than the spending levels of four other committees in the 110th Congress.

These are challenging budgetary times. We know that. In looking, however, at the funding levels of ourselves and other committees and the ratio of staff to members, it calls for real help, Mr. Chairman, and we would appreciate any help that you can give us along that line.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The statement of Mr. Skelton follows:]

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

February 11, 2009

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lungren, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on the funding needs of the Committee on Armed Services along with my friend and partner, John McHugh. You have the committee's funding resolution and supporting materials before you, so let me make some brief opening remarks and get to your questions. In simple terms, this budget of $18.0 million is what is needed to ensure the Armed Services Committee can fulfill its substantial oversight responsibilities while retaining a highly technically skilled and professional staff.

This is a unique committee with a unique charge. We have the primary responsibility to oversee a military actively fighting two wars. Yearly we authorize over 50 percent of the discretionary portion of the entire Federal budget. Overseeing the new administration's change in strategy for two wars and helping to decide the proper scope of the Defense Department's roles and budget will be substantial challenges. This committee also must ensure that our military has the right people, equipment, and investments to deter and, if necessary, to win the next conflict wherever that is.

That is a huge mandate and, because of that, 60 of our colleagues—including two members of this committee—have chosen to serve with us, making the Armed Services Committee one of the largest committees

in the House. At the same time, its relative level of resources – both in terms of staff positions and funding allocated to the committee – does not fully reflect its responsibilities.

Under Chairman Les Aspin, the Armed Services Committee was known for its oversight and analytical work – including in the run-up to the Gulf War. That Committee staff numbered 82. Today our staff is at 69. We thank this committee for the help we received last Congress. Yet still, only three other committees have a smaller ratio of staff to committee members (Small Business, Financial Services and Agriculture). The Armed Services Committee ranked eleventh in overall funding during the 110th Congress. And between the 104th and 110th Congresses, our committee

ranked eighth in the amount of funding growth in comparison to all committees.

As you can see, we have long been accustomed to doing more with less. During the last Congress, our bipartisan staff conducted 177 hearings. This staff also ensured we were able to pass outstanding National Defense Authorization Acts during the last two years. This maintained our four-decades-long tradition of getting an authorization bill enacted into law and we did it under extraordinarily difficult conditions.

The Committee has done this while maintaining our unique bipartisan approach with a unified and bipartisan staff, within which Mr. McHugh controls fourteen slots. For purposes of all committee operations – pay, equipment,

travel, training, supplies, office space, parking, etc. – Mr. McHugh's staff is treated in exactly the same manner as the rest of the staff. And any staff increases under this budget will be shared with the minority. Our staff works together on virtually all matters, including preparing this budget request.

This budget request, therefore, seeks to ensure both that the Committee has sufficient staff resources to complete our ambitious oversight agenda and that we can compete with other committees for the right talent to oversee the military's programs.

For many years, Armed Services Committee staff salaries were below the House committee average. This budget does allow the committee to complete the process

of making staff salaries competitive with other committees to ensure retention of the best talent. Armed Services Committee professional staff members are each highly skilled in a particular aspect of our nation's security activities and all must obtain and maintain security clearances. Attracting and retaining these skilled professionals is a significant challenge.

Over the course of the 111th Congress, we are requesting $8.3 million in 2009 and $9.7 million in 2010. While this represents a real increase from where we are today, it allows for modest improvements. It would allow us to hire 6 additional staffers per year—4 majority and 2 minority—in key specialties that will enhance our oversight. It would allow us to retain critical staffers through COLAs and through targeted salary increases.

And I would ask you to consider this: If you were to approve our request for the 111th Congress, the Armed Services Committee would **STILL** rank lower than the spending levels of four other committees in the 110th Congress, despite having far more members than all but one committee and overseeing our military in two wars.

These are challenging budgetary times. We know this. But we believe that, even with the increase requested, this committee is a very cost-effective investment for oversight and quality legislation. Thank you for your time, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to answer questions once Mr. McHugh has completed his statement.

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 121

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Mr. SKELTON 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 Armed Services in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.**

3 For the expenses of the Committee on Armed Serv-
4 ices (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Com-
5 mittee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there
6 shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House
7 of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses,
8 not more than $18,014,287 for the One Hundred Eleventh
9 Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $8,324,646 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $9,689,641 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

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. Mr. McHugh.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. JOHN M. McHUGH, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. MCHUGH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Lungren, and distinguished members. I am going to try to be very, very brief because I don't think I serve our interests by making us miss a vote. But if I may, I could submit my formal statement for the record in its entirety.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

Mr. MCHUGH. I would say, Mr. Chairman, that obviously these are difficult times for our country. And as my chairman—and I would note, my good friend—Ike Skelton has said, we are somewhat of an understaffed and underresourced committee, given what lies before us.

We have a change in the administration. The American people have spoken. But at the same time we will continue to oversee potential change, and in many ways a very appropriate change, in the strategies for Iraq and Afghanistan. And as I know all of us agree, these are conflicts that are critical to our national security; and we are going to have a great deal of discussion in this conference about what is appropriate national security policy and what the appropriate funding levels should be.

Let me state, the committee has, as the chairman said, a very unique tradition; and with respect to this consideration before you, we have a bipartisan approach and a uniquely unified staff. And it is important to note for the record, within this structure the minority does control 14 slots.

And again, as the chairman said, for the purposes of benefits and overhead costs and committee operations, the committee's minority staff is treated in exactly the same manner as the rest of the staff. And our long-standing tradition also holds that any staff increases that, in your wisdom, we are able to secure here will be equally shared by the minority. And obviously from my perspective, I think that is a very, very good thing.

This request seeks to ensure the committee has sufficient staff resources, ensuring that the lessons learned from the current operations regarding the size and the capabilities of our military are not lost, that potential changes to military policy do not adversely affect our national security, and that we have done everything in our power to ensure—as I know you share an interest, Mr. Chairman, and all the members of your distinguished committee—that the men and women in uniform, who serve us so proudly, and their families are well served.

We all recognize these are tough economic times; and we recognize, as well, this committee is going to have to make some very, very difficult decisions. But when you consider the amount of spending that we are making in the days ahead to try to restart our economy and to ensure that the regulators and overseers have sufficient budgets and staffs to account for that spending, this committee needs appropriate resourcing as well.

Let me just, in closing, underscore one of the facts that the chairman made. The Department of Defense is spending close to $650 billion each and every year, while the American children—adults,

young men and women—fight and shed blood for freedom. And in that light particularly, I would respectfully suggest that the $9 million we are seeking to oversee that effort is somewhat modest in comparison, that some of those other moneys will be spent for America.

We have, I think, an awesome responsibility on this committee—again, the chairman said, over 50 percent of the discretionary funding—and I think in that context the request of the committee is very, very reasonable and something that I am here today to respectfully say I fully support.

With that, I would certainly yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. McHugh follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE JOHN MCHUGH
RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

February 11, 2009

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lungren, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to join my Chairman and good friend, Ike Skelton, to testify today on the funding needs of the Committee on Armed Services. I will make a very brief opening statement.

These are very difficult times for our country. An economic crisis while fighting two wars is an unprecedented challenge for America. Ike and I recognize this. The Armed Services Committee has the primary responsibility to oversee our military actively fighting these contingencies.

With the change in administration, we will also be overseeing a potential change in strategy for Iraq and Afghanistan, conflicts that are critical to our national security. In the 111th Congress, there will be much discussion about the role of the Department of Defense in our

national security policy and what is its proper funding level. The Armed Services Committee must first and foremost ensure that our military has the right people, equipment, and investments to win the current fight. We must also achieve the balance in the government's funding and policy to deter both state and non-state actors which threaten our security. If necessary, we must have a military that can win the next conflict wherever that may be.

This is still a very dangerous world. Heaven forbid that during our efforts to recover from this economic crisis we should experience another attack on our homeland. Therefore, there is no rest from a strong defense and unrelenting vigilance. There can be no defense holiday and there will be not holiday for this committee.

The Committee has a unique tradition with a bipartisan approach and a unified staff. Within this structure, the minority does control fourteen slots. For purposes of all benefits, overhead costs, and committee operations, the minority staff is treated in exactly the same manner as the rest of the staff. As is our long standing tradition, any staff increases under this budget will be shared with the minority.

This budget request, therefore, seeks to ensure that the Committee has sufficient staff resources to ensure that the lessons learned from the current operations regarding the size and capability of our military are not lost, that potential changes to national military policy do not adversely impact our national security, and to ensure that we have done everything in our power to support the men and women in uniform and their families.

These are indeed tough economic times for Americans. Between the TARP and the pending stimulus package we will spend over a trillion dollars this year to restart the economy, and we will increase financial and market regulator agency budgets and staffs substantially to account for the spending. Dire as the economy is, consider the following: the Department of Defense is spending close to $650 billion dollars each and every year while young Americans fight and shed blood for freedom. The committee's budget request of $9 million a year to oversee this effort is modest in comparison and will be money well spent for America.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Also you need to know that Mr. Spratt was here testifying for his Budget Committee and asked probably for the least amount of money of anybody in front of us and put a big pitch in for the Armed Services Committee. And we took that to heart.

I serve on Armed Services. It is a pleasure to be there. It is a great committee to serve on, great relationship. And I am sure that comes from the relationship between the Chair and our ranking member. So I thank you for that.

Mr. Lungren, any questions?

Mr. LUNGREN. As you suggest, we may not be able to grant all the requests that are out there.

I happen to think national defense is the number one obligation of the Federal Government, so I appreciate the work that you do. But just for informational purposes, your request is three times the average request, percentage-wise, of any committee making requests out here and the third highest. And we have been told by the appropriators, we are going to make the ultimate decision how much money you get, that if we added up all the requests that we have got, it won't meet their mark that we have got.

So we have got to do some trimming here. And I will just tell you that to know that we have got some tough decisions.

The last thing I will say is this: We have been discussing here whether or not it would be good to have the committees come back to talk to us after the fiscal year. In other words, even though this is a 2-year authorization, come back after the first year so we can look at where you are, see how that stacks up with the requests that you have made, see if there are changed circumstances; on the one hand, make sure that what we thought is the case is the case, and if there are different factors, maybe we authorize something that might be in addition to what we can authorize right now.

Would you have any problem with that, that is, coming back at the end of the year?

Mr. SKELTON. I don't think we would. Everybody that comes before you, Mr. Lungren, is going to say, We are different, we are special.

The CHAIRMAN. Everybody has said that so far today.

Mr. SKELTON. I know. And maybe I sound like a broken record on that. But when I look at the job that we have to do, we are supposed to have four hearings a year on waste, fraud and abuse. We are supposed to have first-class oversight.

The Defense Department, as the chairman and Mrs. Davis will tell you, is a humongous department and it needs as much scrutiny from professionals.

We really have good people; we really do. We are wearing some of them out as the chairman and Mrs. Davis will tell you. We would like to add six this year, an additional six next year. To keep good people, you have to pay them. I don't want to see us raided of these professionals that we have; and you just have to pay them and treat them well.

And that is where we are.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren.

Mr. MCHUGH. If I may.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCHUGH. I fully agree with what the chairman said. We have certain obligations that professional staff recognize are critical to their future; and clearly, any uncertainty breeds the opportunity for them to search out new horizons. Having said that, I think both the chairman and I could say, we are so strongly committed and believe in this request that any future review, we think, could withstand your scrutiny. That is your jurisdiction.

So while I firmly believe that this request merits a 2-year consideration, with respect to whatever determinations you make, I am sure we would meet that bar.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. Just very quickly—and I don't necessarily expect to you have the answers to this question, but I do want to raise it so that it can be further explored by you.

There are some committees, including yours, that have information probably more sensitive than certain other committees.

Mr. SKELTON. That is correct.

Ms. LOFGREN. And one of the concerns that I have had is that we have adequate cyber security efforts in place for the committee offices here in Washington, but also to make sure that—again, it is one of the committees where members travel a lot, and appropriately so, given the nature of the assignment. But members do take mobile devices and many of them do not realize that there is hacking going on and that they are exposing not only themselves, but potentially the committee and their offices to disruption and spying.

So I am just hoping that we can—looking at your budget that you can put some attention to that. Certainly, House Administration has resources. But a lot of Members just have no idea what their——

Mr. SKELTON. We have and we will.

Ms. LOFGREN. The only other thing I would say, and I have said the same thing to Foreign Affairs is that before members go on a CODEL, I think it would be important for the committee to have a little heart-to-heart with each member going through the risky behavior that members are completely unaware of in some cases.

Mr. SKELTON. Yes, we do try to do that. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. We do have a vote. One minute.

Mrs. DAVIS OF CALIFORNIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just really quickly, it is really tough for the staff to be a match for the Pentagon, as you know. I mean, that is tough.

And so the work that they do is quite extraordinary; and I think that—as we look at the next 2 years, I guess I would ask the chairman and ranking member, in what area over the course of that year do you think you might have been shorted a little bit, didn't do something that you could have done had you had another resource, another staff member that could have helped?

Mr. SKELTON. In a word, oversight. We have the new subcommittee, as you know, that has been functioning very, very well. But oversight. It is a massive undertaking. Whether it be on personal matters or weapons systems or all of the above.

I don't know how John feels, but that would be my thought.

Mr. MCHUGH. I couldn't agree more.

To the chairman's credit, when he took over and the new majority took over, one of the first things they did, as you know, Mrs. Davis, is create the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. They did a great job within the parameters of staffing that was available to them.

But that is going to be more important, not so much as an oversight or potential wrongdoing by the new administration, but rather as a responsible and reflective oversight with respect to the rapidly changing environments in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mrs. DAVIS OF CALIFORNIA. Thank you. I agree.

And I know I missed that committee meeting because I was here.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you all. Thank you for being here today. Recess until the last vote. Thank you.

[Recess.]

The CHAIRMAN. Calling the committee on House Administration back to order. I would like to welcome our chairman of Veterans Affairs, Chairman Filner, and Ranking Member Buyer. And thank you for being here and we look forward to hearing your testimony.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. BOB FILNER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. FILNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Lungren, for the opportunity to be here and Ranking Member Mr. Buyer joins me in support of today's request. I will submit by testimony for the record, and just say a few things in addition.

Our committee is responsible for the second largest Federal agency in the government with over 260,000 people and a budget authority approaching $100 billion; and our request for 7.8 million provides us not only the ability to hire a fine professional staff, but to pursue an aggressive oversight agenda.

The 25 million veterans that we are responsible for means that a quarter of the Nation's population, over 70 million, are potentially eligible for VA benefit services because they are veterans, family members or survivors. So we need to serve this population.

Our agenda for the coming year revolves around adequately funding the Department, addressing our backlogs in claims and benefits, building on mental health and traumatic brain injury treatment, rural health care and women's veteran issues and improving access to the VA.

Ninety percent of our budget is for staff, as you well know. The couple of increases we have asked for revolve around travel because we have a lot of new members on the VA committee, and they have already approached us with requests to travel to VA facilities in their area, and for, of course, our oversight around the country.

Our equipment request is in accordance with the end of Life Cycle program that is around the Hill.

We do request in our staff ceiling from 34, and we ask for a raise to 36; This would allow both the majority and the minority to hire one additional staff person while still maintaining a two-thirds, one-third policy. We are a small committee, and we have a big responsibility; and we think we can do this with the staffing that we requested and the budget that we requested.

And I think I speak for Mr. Buyer. All of us on this committee have great pride that we can, in fact, serve the great veterans of our Nation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The information follows:]

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 122

Providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Mr. FILNER 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 Veterans' Affairs in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $7,844,690.00 for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $3,812,691.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $4,031,999.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

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

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

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

○

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Buyer.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. STEVE BUYER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF INDIANA

Mr. BUYER. Thank you, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren.

I associate myself with the words of Chairman Filner. I support this request that treats the minority fairly in all respects and maintains the two-thirds/one-third division.

And the budget was put together in a transparent manner, so I want to thank the chairman for that and the cooperation between our staff. All pertinent information was shared; it has been an open process, and for that, I am deeply appreciative.

The only thing I would like for the committee to understand a bit of the history of VA, where we are and the purpose of this request.

As I sat here, I heard you ask some questions about where could you cut, if you could cut, where would you do it. Please understand that when Chris Smith was chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, he had gotten himself crosswise with then Republican leadership; and they began to cut his budgets to try to get him to cooperate, and it left our IT systems in disarray. When I became chairman of the committee, I then had to come to House Administration and ask for a very large increase, and we had to modernize our Veterans' Affairs Committee's budgets.

Chairman Filner, over the last 2 years, carried through with that plan, but our servers now need to be funded. And so we are in this replacement plan for our IT architecture within the committee, and it is really important. I just wanted you to know that.

I will now echo the chairman's comments. At Veterans' Affairs, we have an excellent staff that works in a bipartisan manner; and we deal with the consequences of war in ensuring that the earned benefits are properly delivered and timely. And there is a lot of oversight.

But at the same time, we work very well with the VA and the VA has been doing a pretty good job. But, boy, they know how to trip and stumble, too. When they do, everybody gets to know about it in the country, and they demand immediate response; and the chairman and myself, along with that staff, try to be as responsible as possible and to go to those sites.

So the budget that has been submitted I believe is a fair budget and allows us to do the job which I believe the country expects us to do.

I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Lungren, any questions?

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I thank you both of you for your testimony. Just on the record, it is your committee in the Congresses in the past that has pointed out when administrations have not come up with the proper funding. And you folks were proven right in recent years, as opposed to the administration, and you were sort of our guide in the Congress as to what the proper numbers ought to be.

Is that correct? Am I remembering that history pretty well?

Mr. BUYER. There has been a long debate over, quote, "What is the proper funding within the VA health administration side of the House," and we learned—there is nothing wrong with the budget modeling, but what we learned is that the inputs are stale; and that has been a bipartisan effort, to make sure the number is correct.

As a matter of fact, in the last Congress when Democrats then took over, my gosh, they even delivered a number that was higher than the Independent Budget. So what they sought to do on the committee is to put this issue to rest.

Mr. LUNGREN. What I am just trying to point out is, your committee has done a good job of trying to find out what the facts are and trying to get them to those of us in Congress as you do your oversight. It is money well spent.

Your increase request is in line with what you have gotten, averaged over the last three to five Congresses; and I think it is an obvious observation that the amount of work that the VA is going to be doing in the coming years is not going to be any less than it has been in the last 10 years, particularly as we have more and more of our veterans returning from active warfare. So I appreciate the work that you are doing.

One thing I would just say is that we have asked here on the committee, others who have appeared before us, whether or not it would be a good idea for us to have committees come back to us at the end of this year to see how things stacked up with the request that was made and the expenditures that were made, and particularly since we are in uncertain economic times right now in trying to make budget decisions.

So even though we would authorize for 2 years, the thought would be that we would ask committees to come back to us, report to us on what they are doing; and if there is a change of circumstances, have us take a look at it. And I hope that the two of you would cooperate with us in that manner.

Mr. FILNER. Sure, Mr. Lungren. I think it is a great idea. Anything that increases the transparency of the body I think is good and that is one that would do that. So we would certainly welcome that opportunity.

Mr. BUYER. One of the reasons I think we would be more than eager to do that is with reference to the travel budget. At the end of the last Congress, the VA sent us a message and said they were no longer going to pay for our travel. I think what we had was an administration saying, I don't want to pay the bill to have you do all this oversight on us and then criticize us; and so—I am just paraphrasing, but I think that is probably—so they cut the travel budgets.

So we have had to increase the request for travel on our side and my sensing is that——

Mr. LUNGREN. That is so your members can go and see—do on-site trips, find out for themselves?

Mr. BUYER. The on-spot visits. You have to go flip the beds, look in the trunks, and go where they don't want you to go. And that is what the staffs do.

But my sensing here is—and I will meet with the Secretary tomorrow—they are going to keep that. I had this discussion with his staff and shared it with the chairman. My sensing is, the Secretary will keep that as the norm for this year.

So, in the budget, we will be paying out of hide for our own oversight. But what I am hopeful for is that the administration—then we can negotiate that in our budgets and they can pick that up like they do for DOD. So when we do that, I would be more than happy to come back and discuss that.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren? No questions.

Thank you, Mr. Filner. Thank you, Mr. Buyer. Thank you for your time.

Mr. FILNER. We should come back every quarter maybe because it is such a wonderful experience.

The CHAIRMAN. I don't feel like seeing you that often.

Good afternoon.

Mr. THOMPSON. Good afternoon.

The CHAIRMAN. It is good to see Homeland Security and we appreciate Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Mark Souder being here to testify today. We look forward to your presentation.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Lungren, other members. I see my colleague from Mississippi, Mr. Harper, and obviously a member of the committee, Ms. Lofgren. I am happy to be here.

Obviously this is not Ranking Member King. He sent his best person on the committee in his absence given his schedule. I think Mr. King has some other commitments in New York. I think some of us are familiar with what he is working on, and so he could not be here. But I am happy to be here.

Ranking Member King and myself really work well on this committee together, Mr. Chair. Over the past two Congresses, we have worked in a very bipartisan manner. We have conducted oversight on some very difficult issues, and I have held a number of hearings affecting nearly every aspect of the Department.

The biggest government reorganization in decades is no short order. Its first transition to a new administration has been one of our chief concerns for over a year. I also know our committee's work on both natural and man-made disasters speaks for itself. However, we still have a lot of opportunities and responsibilities within this mammoth Federal agency.

From the standpoint of the Chair of the committee, we have had, as I indicated, a very bipartisan approach. Our staffs work together on all those areas. We have had a record number of hearings, especially oversight.

Our budget request is in line with what we think we will need to continue the responsibilities of the committee this session. We feel very comfortable that since this request does not reflect any request for additional staff to perform the duties, it basically recognizes the fact that in order to keep a good staff, we have to pay

them; otherwise, we will lose them. So beyond the normal increases for supporting competent staff, we don't anticipate any requests for any additional financial support.

We do a number of field hearings. We travel around the country, looking at various aspects of Homeland Security, whether it is border security, cyber security, transit security, port security. This mission is not just here in Washington, but it is all over the country and, in some instances, around the world. But we have made it.

There are a number of things we want to look toward next year—and this year, really—with the budget. We have an issue with TWIC cards, border security efforts, an intelligence fusion center in Denver, new security infrastructure issues at the Port of Long Beach, L.A., protection of the subway and commuter rail systems in New York, DC, chemical plants in New Jersey and Houston.

We have a diverse mission, So in support of that, we make this request before this committee to allow us to perform those duties. And in the interest of allowing my ranking member, Mr. Souder for the benefit of this hearing, I will yield to him at this time.

[The statement of Mr. Thompson follows:]

Statement before
The Committee on House Administration

Chairman Bennie G. Thompson
Committee on Homeland Security
February 11, 2009

- Thank you, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren.
- I would like to thank you and all the Members of the Committee for allowing me and Ranking Member Peter King to testify on the funding submission for the Committee on Homeland Security.
- Over the past two Congresses, Peter and I have worked in a bipartisan manner to fulfill the mandates of our Committee charge. We have conducted oversight of some very difficult issues and have held a record number of hearings

affecting nearly every aspect of the Department. The biggest government reorganization in decades is no short order. Its first transition to a new Administration has also been one of our chief concerns for over a year.

- I also know our Committee's work on both natural and man-made disasters speaks for itself.
- However ,we still find ourselves supervising a mammoth federal agency.
- Thanks to the previous budgets approved by this Committee, the Committee on Homeland Security has been able to be both vigilant and thorough in our approach.
- As the Department completes the first transition in its short history, we plan to continue our

careful approach and maintain a watchful eye on the taxpayers' interests.

- You will be hearing a lot about "we" from us during our testimony here today. That is because Homeland Security is neither a Republican nor a Democratic issue.
- Terrorists and hurricanes have yet to sort out folks by their political stripe when deciding whom to strike.
- Mr. Chairman, homeland security is an American issue.
- That is why Representative King and I, as well as our respective staffs, have and will continue to work together to make our nation a more secure place.

- And why we have co-sponsored H.Res. 127 to cover expenses for the Committee on Homeland Security in the 111th Congress.
- Our funding resolution seeks $8,718,127 for 2009.
- In 2010, we are requesting $9,140,309.
- These amounts are necessary to pay salaries for a total of 70 staff, both Majority and Minority combined, and operating expenses for the Full Committee and its six subcommittees.
- If we are allotted this increase, we will be able to offer a much-needed merit pay increase to the now very experienced staff that is in place.
- Since the Committee became permanent in the 109th Congress our breadth of knowledge,

experience and work product have increased dramatically.

- As such, our request for 2009 reflects an approximate 4.5% increase from our 2008 allocation. The 2010 request is approximately 4.5% over the 2009 request.
- Most of this increase is for merit pay and COLAs for staff, which I think Representative King would agree is the "best and brightest" on the Hill.
- Personally, I'm proud to say that the Majority Committee staff I have assembled is one of the most diverse, if not the most diverse, on the Hill.
- In addition to providing for our staff, the funding resolution assures that they have access to

reliable and cutting-edge equipment and technology as well as updated security software.

- This Committee has traveled around the country the last two Congresses to gather information, meet with First Responders, ……. The increase in the travel is consistent with the rate of inflation. We anticipate that slightly more travel may occur this year.
- We are also planning to hold a number of field hearings and investigative inquiries throughout the country on homeland security.
- As we all know, the nature of homeland security, after all, is a local matter affecting all our communities in different ways.

- A one size fits all approach to security simply will not do and constant interaction and cooperation with each state and local community is essential to forming the best policies.
- We must be able to understand and explain to the American people such diverse things as:
    - new security infrastructure at the Port of Long Beach;
    - the necessity of an intelligence fusion center in Denver;
    - border security efforts at both our Northern and Southern borders;
    - the distribution of TWIC Cards – the Transportation Worker Identification Credentials;

- the protection of subways and commuter rails in New York City and Washington, DC;
- the safeguards at chemical plants in New Jersey and Houston; AND
- the performance of FEMA in Mississippi and Louisiana.

- I hope you will support our request.
- Thank you.

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 127

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself and Mr. KING of New York) 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 Homeland Security in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Homeland Security (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $17,832,436 for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $8,718,127 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $9,114,309 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

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. Mr. Souder.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. MARK E. SOUDER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF INDIANA

Mr. SOUDER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman—Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren and all the other members of the committee. The ranking member, Peter King, had an unavoidable conflict, as you heard, and he asked me to represent the committee Republicans.

I would like to congratulate the gentleman from California on his appointment as ranking member of your committee; and as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, he knows a wide range of issues.

The committee addresses an important role. It plays in overseeing the Department of Homeland Security, as does Ms. Lofgren, who has worked on the committee from the beginning. The funding level requested will allow the committee on Homeland Security to continue its important work. The staffing level remains the same as the last Congress with 22 positions for the Republican staff.

Mr. Chairman Thompson has pointed out that the Committee on Homeland Security has accomplished much since its establishment as a standing committee in 2005. In the 109th Congress, the committee was responsible for new laws of important security, chemical plant, security border infrastructure and FEMA reform.

In the 110th Congress, the committee played a role in ensuring H.R. 1, implementing recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act, was enacted into law. In both Congresses, the committee conducted extensive oversight of the Department of Homeland Security.

In the past 2 years, we saw Islamic terrorists attempt to kill hundreds of innocent British citizens, first in the popular downtown nightlife area and later at an airport. We saw another cell plot to behead British soldiers who had returned from Iraq.

In the United States, we witnessed six Islamic terrorist plots to kill U.S. soldiers at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and another group to set a fire at JFK Airport and the surrounding neighborhoods.

This past Thanksgiving the world watched in horror as nearly 200 civilians were killed in a coordinated terrorist attack in Mumbai, India. And just this morning, Taliban suicide bombers carried out a Mumbai-style attack in Kabul, resulting in at least 19 killed and 46 wounded.

These are just the terrorist plots that have been made public.

The Committee on Homeland Security held its organization meeting last week and adopted its rules package and oversight plan. The chairman and the ranking member expressed their intent to work in a bipartisan manner. While we have our policy differences from time to time, we will express them in a constructive way.

In the 111th Congress, we need to address the security implications of the President's plans for Guantanamo Bay, explore the findings of the WMD Commission, pass an authorization bill for DHS, strengthen border security, and improve intelligence and information sharing.

We also look forward to working with the new Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, to ensure adequate resources and constructive oversight are provided to the Department.

We ask for the support of the committee on House Administration for this funding resolution to allow our committee to do what it can to protect our country from a terrorist attack and be better prepared for national disasters.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Lungren, any questions?

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Souder, for appearing before us and representing the committee in the request, which appears to be a very reasonable request considering the continuing ambit of issues that the committee deals with.

I also might note this is a relatively new committee, and as a result, it had rather substantial increases in the past several Congresses. And so this is a substantial departure that is a far smaller request for an increase than we have seen in the past. And I think that is an indication that the committee is up and running, that we have sort of hit our stride, and we have done those kinds of organizational things that need to be done.

Just one question and that is that we have discussed on this committee the idea that while we do 2-year authorizations, it would be a good idea to have committees come back to us at the end of the year, end of the fiscal year, and basically share with us what progress has been made, how the money has been spent consistent with what the request was made for. In light of the fact that we have real questions about the economy right now, and we are trying to make tough decisions as to what budgets ought to be, there might be changed circumstances in a year, and it might be of interest to this committee to know what needs the committee has at that time.

So we would hope that the committee would work with us on that.

Mr. THOMPSON. We would not have a problem at all.

Mr. SOUDER. May I comment?

Probably as much or more than almost any committee in Congress, the likelihood of something happening in our area of influence would be large that—while we are staffed up more than we were, as a senior member at Oversight and Government Reform, we have far more staff over there than we have at Homeland Security.

There have been all kinds of jurisdiction questions, and the 9/11 Commission wanted this committee to be the point committee; and in fact, if there is a terrorist attack on our soil, you are likely to see a lot of pressure come towards this committee. So the ability to come in and review it at the end of the year would be helpful.

And I would also like to praise Mr. Thompson's reasonable request. I have been a committee staff director. I have been a Member of Congress who has made requests for committees. This is a very reasonable request; and if at the end of the year or somewhere along the line you have to reevaluate, I would hope it would be taken into consideration who asked for big increases, who asked for smaller increases, and it not be some kind of proportional, across

the board, because that is what gets people to lead to inflated requests if that would happen.

Mr. LUNGREN. I appreciate that very much. And you bring up a point, which is, if I am not mistaken—the last remaining, unresolved recommendation of the 9/11 Commission was that we have a single committee with prime jurisdiction over Homeland Security matters; and both the Senate and the House have failed on that one.

I would hope that we would move further in that direction, and you need to have a budget that is equal to the challenge of the responsibilities that the committee has.

So I appreciate your presentation and I thank you.

I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren, any questions?

Ms. LOFGREN. I would just say I have been happy to serve on this committee since it was—before it was a standing committee; and it has been really a pleasure to serve with the many talented members across the aisle.

And certainly Mr. Thompson's leadership has been excellent. As Mr. Lungren has noted, this now—I think the budget request is a reflection of how the committee has now matured. And I want to give credit to the chairman and certainly Mr. King, who couldn't be here today.

But the members have worked very hard, and I think we are going to have a very good year; there is a lot of new energy in the committee. Some of the members who wavered certainly added continuity, but because of their other assignments, weren't always able to attend.

So we are just going to have a great year, I think, in Homeland Security, and I look forward to approving this budget.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. I would just like to say how much I appreciate the leadership that Chairman Thompson and Mr. King have provided. Keep up the good work.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Souder. Thank you for appearing here today.

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Chair, Mr. Hall is on the way. Let me just say that there is something going on in this room. I wish you could bottle it and take it to the rest of the floor. The collegiality is very warming.

This is really the first time I have ever seen Mr. Buyer and Mr. Filner be civil with each other and even agreed. So—something is going on here, so my congratulations.

The CHAIRMAN. I have got to tell you, we were a little disappointed ourselves, but——

Mr. GORDON. I don't want to hold you up. I am sure Mr. Hall is going to be in the amen section, and I don't think he would mind my going forward, and then he can join—I hate to speak for him. He doesn't have staff here. But I know you have got things to do here.

The CHAIRMAN. We will let you do your opening statement. Hopefully, he will come in. And then if he comes in during, we will let him speak too. Is that okay?

Go right ahead, Mr. Chairman.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. BART GORDON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Mr. GORDON. Let me just get down to business.

We are asking for a 10 percent increase. And I know you have got to think, "Well, these are tough times; why are you doing that?" So I think we need to give you an explanation.

You have some charts there before you that show the amount of, really, additional work that our committee has done. We have doubled the number of hearings in the last Congress from the previous Congress, and all the collateral work that goes with that also increased.

We have several authorizations that are coming up this year; for that reason, we were granted three additional staff members to try to take care of this. So those were expensive.

And we are in a somewhat unique situation in that most of our professional staff have PhDs. They all have advanced degrees; most of them have PhDs in engineering or the sciences or those hard-to-get areas. We have continuing battles to stop the poaching, so we really have to pay our folks comparably to keep them there. So payroll is a big part of our budget.

As you know, the administration has put a priority on science for this coming year, as President Obama has said on a number of occasions; and my friends here on this side know that when Speaker Pelosi speaks to our caucus about innovation and about the future, she says there are four things we have to do. She started off with three, now it is four: science, science, science, science.

So we are being asked to do a lot of things in that regard. Travel goes up for everybody, and we know that is going up. But we are again a little bit unique in the sense that we have several new subcommittee chairmen and ranking members, as well as several new members. So we are expecting there is going to be more travel than usual as they better understand their jobs.

Then we get to the other major category. That is equipment. We are on a somewhat regular cycle and this coming cycle for this coming year and in 2010, we are replacing all of our desktop computers, which will be expensive.

There is something called a Lektriever. If you don't know what that is, I don't really either, but I am told we have one. It is way downstairs. It is over 20 years old, they think—nobody has been around long enough to know how old it is—and that needs to be replaced. We are going to try to make it with bubble gum and all that until at least 2010.

So, again. I think we are in somewhat of a unique situation. And I will either conclude there, or you will be welcomed to ask questions, or we can wait for Mr. Hall or whatever you would like to do.

I understand Mr. Hall is stuck in an elevator.

The CHAIRMAN. Are the elevators stuck again?

Mr. GORDON. Let me also say that every piece—we got out, I guess, almost 70 pieces of legislation in either bills or resolutions last year. All were vastly bipartisan. There wasn't anything that

wasn't bipartisan coming out of the committee; and I think that is a tribute to having a good partner here.

[The statement of Mr. Gordon follows:]

Statement of

The Hon. Bart Gordon, Chairman

Committee on Science and Technology

before the

Committee on House Administration

February 11, 2009

I know you are very busy with this budget process, and I will try to be brief.

First of all, let me say that Mr. Hall and I have always worked well together, and I think we both expect our cordial and cooperative relationship to continue in the 111th Congress and beyond.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee on Science and Technology is requesting a 2009 budget that is approximately 10% higher than the 2008 budget and a 2010 budget that is 10% higher than the amount requested for 2009.

There are several reasons for these increases. During the 110th Congress, the Committee was granted three additional administrative personnel slots. This budget request is the first one since our staff has increased. We expect to be fully staffed within the next few weeks as we bring on a new professional staffer and fill a couple of slots designated for shared staff of subcommittee chairs. In addition, I have a request in to the Speaker currently for three additional permanent staff slots—two for the Majority and one for the Minority. This budget fully funds the three requested slots.

If the slots are granted, we will immediately work to fill them. In the 110th Congress we held 123 hearings as compared to 68 held in the 109th Congress. With the renewed emphasis on science and technology by the new Administration and our own House Leadership, we plan to be equally or even more productive in the 111th Congress. Additional staff will enhance our expertise and allow us to continue with a very aggressive oversight and legislative agenda.

The ability to offer merit raises and COLAs is necessary in order to recruit and maintain our staff of highly-trained professionals with PhDs, JDs, engineering and other graduate degrees. Such specialization is necessary because of the complex scientific and technical issues the Committee tackles. We continue to recruit well-qualified, experienced staff, and we compete against many private and public entities for these highly qualified individuals.

Travel and Equipment are two other categories that see a substantial increase in this budget. The travel increase is due to rising prices in the travel industry, an expected increase in GSA domestic per diems and increased travel by staff and Members. We closely monitor our travel plans, but travel by Members and staff is necessary to accomplish our legislative and oversight goals. Several of our subcommittee chairs and ranking members are new, and we have nine freshman Members, so I expect an increase in 2009 travel over 2008 as they travel to become more familiar with the facilities under the jurisdiction of the Committee.

This Congress we plan to completely replace our desktop computers—beginning late in 2009 and completing the process by the end of 2010. That accounts for the bulk of the equipment budget. The planned purchase of a new Lektriever accounts for an additional increase in the

2010 equipment budget. Our current machine is approximately 20 years old—no one on staff can say for sure—it seems as if it has always been there.

I appreciate your consideration of the Committee on Science and Technology's budget request. I hope you find the request reasonable. I look forward to answering any questions you might have.

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 115

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee 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 Science and Technology in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Science and Technology (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $15,190,423 for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $7,233,535 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $7,956,888 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

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

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

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

○

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. HALL. Amen.

The CHAIRMAN. Ranking member, Mr. Hall.

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

Mr. HALL. Yes. I thank you. I will read this to you guys—it's my first time reading it. I won't make any mistakes.

As you know the House Science and Technology Committee has a long history of bipartisanship. Chairman Gordon and I worked together the last Congress to pass many good pieces of legislation and advance important programs and initiatives for the American people, including the America COMPETES bill and the NASA Reauthorization Act.

Bart may want to put another one or two in there.

I look forward to working with him in this Congress to promote more initiative for our energy independence, our space program and our international competitiveness. And the rest of it goes about the division of—split between majority and minority; but he has always been very fair with us, and I expect the same thing this time. I put this in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

[The statement of Mr. Hall follows:]

Statement of Ralph M. Hall
House Administration Committee—Committee Budget Hearings
February 11, 2009

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know, the House Science and Technology Committee has a long history of bipartisanship. Chairman Gordon and I worked together last Congress to pass many good pieces of legislation that advanced important programs and initiatives for the American people, including the America COMPETES bill and the NASA Reauthorization act. I look forward to working with him this Congress to promote more initiatives for our energy independence, our space program, and our international competitiveness.

That spirit of bipartisanship also carries over to the management of Committee funds. The Chairman has been very diligent in adhering to the 2/3rd—1/3rd split between Majority and Minority budget allocations regarding salary and staff slots. While we do not have as sharp a division with the other budget lines (travel, equipment, supplies, etc), for internal purposes we budget based on a 1/3rd allocation of resources. When we have had questions about expenditures, his staff has been very helpful in answering our questions and providing us with the information requested. Further, the Chairman and I have tried to be flexible with allocations to accommodate circumstances that may arise. I have no reason to doubt that

he will continue to respect this 2/3rd—1/3rd division throughout the budget lines this Congress.

As the authorizing Committee for many Federal programs spread out over several Departments and agencies, it is important that we continue to be vigilant with the taxpayer's money and ensure that our Federal programs are both effective and efficient. We have talented staff dedicated to this goal, and I am hopeful that Chairman Gordon will continue to work with us to conduct proper oversight and advance good, solid pieces of legislation.

I would be happy to take any questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Gordon, does your budget allow you to grant each minority request for equipment and travel?

Mr. GORDON. I am sorry, sir?

The CHAIRMAN. Has your budget allowed you to grant each minority request for travel and equipment?

Mr. GORDON. I can't say "no" to Ralph. There hasn't been a request for travel or equipment for a hearing or anything that Mr. Hall has asked for that they haven't received. Yes, they have gotten all of their equipment.

Mr. HALL. I send these two ladies to see him when I really want something.

The CHAIRMAN. I wanted to hear that. You have to push your button on the microphone. I didn't care about the statements so much, but—that is okay. You don't have to repeat that.

Mr. HALL. I will say he has been very cooperative.

The CHAIRMAN. Okay.

Mr. Lungren, questions?

Mr. LUNGREN. All right. I am waiting to hear these answers, Ralph. Going over the numbers, the request you have is exactly twice as much as the requested increase over the past five Congresses. Can you tell us why that——

Mr. GORDON. I think there are a couple of reasons.

Let's see. Well, there are no 1994 folks here, are there? In 1994, or the beginning of 1995, we had a series of chairmen, Mr. Sensenbrenner being the last, that felt that their job was to do as little as possible in terms of the committee work. And I say that because that is what they were about less government.

So the Science Committee had its budget really slashed during that period of time, and it hasn't really started to come up yet. So, one, we start from a low benchmark.

The other thing, as I said, our work vastly increased last year. We had double the amount of hearings. Both the Speaker and the President have made science and technology a real emphasis, so we are expecting even more coming this year.

And, again, I think the unique thing is that most of our budget goes to staff, and I don't think there is any question we have more PhDs. per capita than any other staff. It doesn't mean we are any better, just that we have a niche of information; that is what it takes.

Mr. LUNGREN. I am not a scientist, but I was an English major in college. So I appreciate your saying—using the word "unique" properly. You said there was a unique—because we have heard about "very unique" and "kind of unique" and "somewhat unique"; and something is unique or not. So I appreciate you using the King's English here correctly.

Let me just ask you this, and this is kind of a general question, but I don't get a chance to ask the two of you this very often. I have spread my service over 30 years here in this Congress and the same question remains. Why aren't we attracting more of our young people to science? Why aren't we doing a better job generally, but particularly with minority kids? Why is our system failing?

Kids are so attracted to new technology in terms of video games—I mean, if you want to know the newest technology, make

sure you talk to a kid. I mean, they know how to do it better than we do. So they seem to have an affinity for that, but they don't have an affinity for science. Do you have any thoughts on that?

Mr. GORDON. You hit a button here. So let me try not to take too much time.

To follow up on—continuing on your question, when you look at the scores of American students, particularly in middle school and high school, on international science and math tests, the last thing I saw, I think we were 31st out of 33 of industrialized countries in math and 32 out of 33 in the sciences.

So we—Sherry Boehlert, Lamar Alexander and Jeff Bingaman—asked the National Academies to do a report on that, what is going on here. As they looked into it, they determined we are not less smart than the rest of them.

Let me give you an interesting thing here: 53 percent of our middle school and high school math teachers have neither certification to teach math nor a degree; 93 percent of the physical science teachers have neither certification nor a degree in that subject. So it is hard—no matter how good a teacher you are, if you don't fully understand your core subject, it is both hard to teach and it is hard to get your students excited.

Mr. Hall mentioned the COMPETES bill last year, and one of the things that we did—and I assume most of you voted for it—we passed legislation—for a variety of things. One, it is going to provide stipends for those good teachers that are there now that don't have a certification to go back to school, get their certification—AP, National Board, whatever it might be.

And all of this is through the National Science Foundation, using existing programs that are just being scaled out, ones that we know work. There is also another program to bring in professionals that are engineers, or whatever it might be, now, that want to go into teaching, to give them that teaching background so they can take the background of the substance and end up teaching.

Then there is also going to be a scholarship program for those students that will go into math or science—and education—and agree to teach for 5 years. So we are trying to reload in that way.

And you hit a very good point. Women and minorities are the most underrepresented—it is scary. And we have also passed legislation to try to increase that.

I would love to talk about this more, but one last thing. Last year, the Chinese in China, they graduated more English-speaking engineers in China from their universities than we did here in this country. That is English-speaking.

Mr. LUNGREN. I obviously touched a button. I appreciate that.

Let me just throw out one little suggestion. When I visited Hong Kong a couple of years ago with Buck McKeon and others, I found out that in Hong Kong they have outstanding science, math records for their kids. And one of the things they do is, they require their teachers in middle school and high school to have a degree in math or science.

But the interesting thing is, they have far more that graduate in that than they can put in their schools; and they are all required to learn English as a part of their system. Wouldn't it be a great exchange program to bring some of those people who are English-

speaking—who know math, know science, have been taught how to teach kids that—over here to the United States? Not in competition with the programs you are talking about, but maybe as a little jolt here and there?

I just throw it out for your——

Mr. GORDON. I think that is something we should talk to the State Department about. That is a good recommendation. Thank you.

Mr. HALL. I don't know the real reason, but there is a new impetus to the young people to enter math and science. And there is more encouragement from the scholars in my State, in my area; and young people are better dressed, they are better fed, they are better educated. About the only thing that they are missing that I had and some of you had was hardship, and we don't want them to have that. But most of them are more intelligent.

A lot of minorities have the opportunity now to go to school and there has been some emphasis on that the last 10 years in the South and the West. And I think youngsters react to that, and I think they realize that when we give them the statistics about China having—what, seven times as many engineers graduating; India, three or four times as many; and Mexico, as many or more—I think they are smart enough to know that, and they may be attracted to something where they are needed. Maybe we have just not done a good enough sales job on young people.

There is a new school in Texarkana, Texas, that is totally, completely aimed towards math and science; and the problem there is that they are going to have a group of people that are just smart and intelligent in math and science and miss the other academic thrusts, and they are doing something to address that. But it is working.

And I think we have youngsters that know they are needed there and they may be responding. I would like to think that is it.

Mr. GORDON. Just a quick footnote on that. We are celebrating our 50th anniversary of the Science Committee. We were a result of Congress' reaction to Sputnik. The other reaction to Sputnik was a whole group of kids that wanted to go into math and science because NASA was getting up and going and they really saw something there.

I think that we have another Sputnik program right now, and that is with energy; and I think with the emphasis on our energy security, as well as expanding different types of energy, I am hoping that is also something that is going to inspire young folks to see that there are those opportunities, and to do that, you need to get engineering and those kinds of backgrounds.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. I will just be brief.

I served on the Science Committee for many years, and I am on leave now. But it is really one of the finest committees in the Congress. It is just a wonderful committee, and the work that you did in the last Congress is just fabulous; it was so important to our country to advance us.

And there is more to be done. I know that the staff is just—it is really one of the finest staffs in the Congress. I mean, you are right that PhDs are the masters of expertise, so certainly that

doesn't come cheap. But I tell you that the benefit for the country is priceless when we look at what we are going to need to do.

Just in listening to the issue of why we don't have more young people going into science, engineering and math, I was—it made me think that sometimes even the people we have in those subjects move on to other things and some of it has to do with remuneration. My son is an undergraduate at Stanford, and he said one of the smartest guys he ever met, who was a math genius, ended up on Wall Street, not in a lab or in a science.

Mr. LUNGREN. He may be coming back.

Ms. LOFGREN. He may be coming back. But I do think when you take a look at—the one thread about excellence for kids in school is whether they have a fabulous teacher. You can slice and dice it; if you have a fabulous teacher, it relates to having good outcomes. And so certainly having teachers who are able to really teach math and science because they know it themselves is going to be very, very important.

So I just wanted to say thanks to you two for being here, for the great job that you did last year and the great job I know you are going to do this year. It is really, really important.

Mr. HALL. I worked with you a lot of years and I know of your background, your successes; and I am not surprised that you have a son that is at Stanford. I couldn't get in Stanford, much less ever hope to get out with my background.

I had a letter from Rice University telling me I was in the top 10 to be chancellor. And I wrote them back and gave them a copy of my transcript of my last year in law school and also wrote and told them about an article that appeared in the paper when I was county judge about my background in high school. It said one time that I had made four Fs and a D and my daddy whipped me for spending too much time on one subject.

That wasn't true, but that is something they used in politics against us.

But I admire you for your boy and I know you are proud of him.

Mr. GORDON. If I might add just one thing about staff—the difficulty in getting good staff?

When I was first elected chairman, the first thing I did—or even before the election—after the election, before I was asked to be chairman, I went to the minority and said, Staff, you can be the first to apply for jobs; and our first seven hires came off the minority staff. Not only was it the right thing to do, but we needed to do it to get the best talent we can. And we just had our first turnover of a staff director, and it was one of the former minority staffers who is the new staff director.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Chairman Gordon. And Ranking Member Hall, thank you.

And thank you for bringing a little bit of relief to this pretty boring and long, tenuous day. Thank you so much.

Good afternoon.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Good afternoon.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Small Business, for coming in today; we appreciate your time and look forward to your testimony, Chairwoman Velázquez and Ranking Member Mr. Graves.

Chairlady Velázquez.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Thank you, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren. I really appreciate the opportunity to come before you today to discuss the budget submission for the House Small Business Committee in the 111th Congress.

We are requesting funds of 7.92 million, a budget we developed with great cooperation from Ranking Member Graves' office. Consistent with changes we made in the last Congress, the ranking member has full control over a third of that budget. And I want to stress that he has full control; that means he gets to determine spending priorities on everything from travel to staff salaries. In other words, Mr. Graves gets to make the same decisions for his staff as I do for mine.

A significant part of the increase I am requesting will go towards nine new staff positions. Those new staffers will be allocated between both the majority and the minority and will work for our five subcommittees. This is critical because those subcommittees are going to have significantly more responsibility in the coming Congress. Now that they each have their own jurisdiction, they will have the ability to not only hold hearings, but to draft legislation and convene markups.

In order to do so, they will need sufficient staff support. Additional staffers will also work with other members' offices to help them do their best for local businesses. The committee has been inundated with requests for casework on everything from SBA loans to accessing capital; but as of today, we just don't have the staff to fully address every inquiry.

We are also seeking funds for holding field hearings. As Congress is making policy to stimulate the economy, we need to be measuring its impact, not just here in Washington, but in different parts of the country. Remember, small firms do not have money for high-priced lobbyists. We need to be able to go to them. That way we can hear the stories and bring their feedback here to Washington.

Another important provision would allocate funds for conducting extensive oversight on contracting and procurement over which the committee has jurisdiction. With Congress about to pass a stimulus package containing billions of dollars in new Federal contracts, it is important that we have adequate resources to guard against fraud and abuse.

The budget also accounts for the committee's technology needs. We will use the additional funding to subscribe to the House Webcast service, which will allow entrepreneurs across the country to watch our hearings. This is a service that the committee wasn't able to provide before since the hearing room was only recently fitted with the proper audiovisual equipment.

Additionally, I am requesting funds for staff BlackBerrys, seeing as we are the only majority committee staff without them.

In the last Congress, this committee was awarded the smallest—and I underline, smallest—allocation of any other. In fact, we only received 3.3 percent more than we did during the 103rd Congress, which was 15 years ago. Since then, our budget has not come close to keeping pace with inflation, a fact that has adversely affected our ability to carry out our work.

Even so, with the smallest staff and the lowest budget, we held the second-most hearings of any committee and set a record of bills passed. And I would like to point out that record includes bills passed by minority. If the House Administration Committee is kind enough to approve our new budget, we will be able to do even more in the next 2 years.

Entrepreneurs are proven job creators and proven catalysts for economy growth. In the next few months, they will play a pivotal role in this country's recovery efforts. I know I speak for the entire Small Business Committee when I say we look forward to helping them play that role and that we look forward to strengthening the small business community with a new budget in the new Congress.

I appreciate your time and will be willing to answer any questions you may have.

[The statement of Ms. Velázquez follows:]

Statement of Chairwoman Nydia M. Velázquez
Before the
House Administration Committee
Hearing on Committee Funding
February 11, 2009 3:30pm

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I appreciate your time and would be willing to answer any questions that Members of the committee may have.

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 138

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ 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 Small Business in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR COMMITTEE EXPENSES.

For the expenses of the Committee on Small Business (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Committee"), including the expenses of all staff salaries, there shall be paid, out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for committee salaries and expenses, not more than $7,920,719.00 for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $3,674,274.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $4,246,445.00 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

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. Thank you.
Ranking Member Graves.

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

Mr. GRAVES. The only thing I could add, I guess, to what the chairwoman said is, for the first time, the five subcommittees have legislative jurisdiction. That has never happened before in the Small Business Committee, which kind of makes this a little bit unique compared to other committees.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Questions, Mr. Lungren.

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

I listened to your testimony very carefully and one of the strongest points that comes out of it is that you are starting from a very small base and you think you need to gear up for additional responsibilities. But based on the staff analysis, the request from your committee is a 32 percent increase——

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Correct.

Mr. LUNGREN [continuing]. Which is far larger than any request of any committee; and we are being told now that maybe times are such that we have got to cut back here.

And so I am just asking, how do I explain to folks a 32 percent increase when the average request from all the committees in the Congress submitted thus far—we have one that is still outstanding, but those for that have come in thus far it is about 7.2 percent.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. If I may, our budget in the 110th Congress was below $6 million. But when you start with such a small dollar amount, what we are doing is playing a catch-up game to be able to get the type of resources that will enable the committee, given the new responsibility to all the subcommittees, to do hearings, markups, the draft legislation, to conduct field hearings.

And I will submit to you that this committee is doing so much casework. Every single day we are inundated with Members' requests to handle cases in their own districts—with people who are small businesses that can't get loans because of the credit crunch, and they want to know what information exists in terms of the SBA small business lending programs, what is the best program that exists for them to go about it; or problems with getting procurement, getting to the Federal marketplace. So we have to constantly be able to provide the type of guidance, technical assistance and information for small businesses who are struggling in this credit crunch to be able to survive.

So given the time, the crisis that we are in, this is when we really need to increase the budget for the committee that has the smallest of the 18 committees that we have in Congress. So it is not the percentage; yes, 32 is high, but it is misleading when you compare the dollar amount that it represents.

Mr. LUNGREN. You both have mentioned a new jurisdictional responsibility for the subcommittees. Where did that jurisdiction lie before?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. We didn't have that type of jurisdiction. Now all the subcommittees have been vetted with a formal legislative juris-

diction, so—before, the markups and drafting legislation was conducted in the full committee.

But we didn't—we didn't have that type of regular order.

Mr. LUNGREN. But the committee had the legislative jurisdiction? It didn't come from another committee?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. No.

Mr. LUNGREN. Okay. Okay. I am just trying to figure——

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. That is good for me and it is good for the minority. There is going to be more transparency. There is going to be more input from both sides of the aisle.

Mr. LUNGREN. And I very much appreciate your outlining the one-third/two-thirds rule and how extensive it is in your committee.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Correct. When I was sitting in that chair and I was the ranking, I didn't have——

Mr. LUNGREN. We appreciate your showing progress in that direction.

The last thing I would say is, we talked here about the fact that we were asked, as has been the practice for some time, to have authorization for 2 years. But it might be good for us to ask committees to come back after the first year to show us how they are doing.

Mr. LUNGREN [continuing]. Tell us how the requests stacked up with what actually occurred and if there are new circumstances that we ought to address going in the second year. We hope that you would cooperate with us on that.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Oh, I will welcome that invitation. The last 2 years, we were one of the most productive committees, holding more than 60 hearings, passing more than 21 bills through the House, and almost half of those were sponsored by the minority. So——

Mr. LUNGREN. You are doing so well, I don't know why you changed to subcommittees. You should have stayed with the full committee. Anyway, thanks.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. First, let me thank both the chairwoman and the ranking member for really a very productive effort and really when you look at our economic challenges, the role of small businesses is more important today than ever. So we know that as we move forward in this Congress, your efforts are going to be just key to our economic recovery.

I can remember in past years when we had contentious discussions about this budget, and clearly you two have come to a meeting of the minds, and it is good to see the collaboration that you are exhibiting because really our small businesses are going to require that from all of us. So you are a good model for all of us up here.

Just looking at the budget, you started out low. And so it is a large percentage increase, although in terms of dollar amounts it is not that much—it is not as big as some other committees have asked for. It looks to me that if you had adjusted for inflation, actually you would be getting about what you got in 1994 adjusted for inflation. Is that incorrect?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. It is correct.

Ms. LOFGREN. Well, I think that is important and clearly we don't know all that we are going to be able to do, but I think certainly we should do our best to try to support the terrific efforts that you have made.

So I would yield back, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. It appears that the bulk of your increase, would that be on staffing positions or other areas?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Staff and also technology.

Mr. HARPER. Okay. And what impact would it have on your committee if you delayed hiring or filling the new positions?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Well, then maybe when small businesses from your district call your office and ask for assistance and you refer them to us, it would take instead of a week, maybe 6 months and by then they might have to close their shop. We are in dire need. This is not that we come here to say that we are going to increase the staff to—we need it. It is overwhelming, especially because it is the Small Business Committee. And people are suffering in this country. And it is important for them that when we say that small businesses are the engine of our economy, that they are the job creators, that in order to get this economy back on track we need to help them. We have to provide the assistance that they need. And this is the time to empower the committee to do more. We have been doing much more with less. It is time, given the crisis that we are in, that we get the resources that we need.

Mr. HARPER. There are projected nine new positions, correct?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Correct.

Mr. HARPER. There are still positions on the majority and minority that are going to be filled, and those are already within the budget or are available to go ahead and fill those positions. And I show that most of them are due to be filled in March of this year, is that correct?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Yes.

Mr. HARPER. And will that alleviate some of the problem in and of itself on some of those positions or are those doing casework?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Well, five of the staff will go to work on the five subcommittees. One will be—three will be for the minority, five for the majority. One of those will be doing just casework.

Mr. HARPER. Thank you for the input.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. I remember I served on that committee many years ago. I remember the fights and hardships that you had, you know, fighting to try to get up to parity then. And it is quite admirable now that you don't harbor any misgivings that were trying to get you up there, that you do respect the minority. And we appreciate—I appreciate that because you never know, majority today, minority tomorrow.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. That is right.

The CHAIRMAN. It is nice that you do that. Thank you for being here. Thank you for taking your time, Chairperson Velasquez. Ranking Member Graves, appreciate it. Thank you.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Natural Resources. We will be extremely brief because Mr. Rahall and Mr. Hastings—you are the last committee. We have nothing left. So nothing left to give but our sympathies.

Thank you for appearing here today, Chairman Rahall and Ranking Member Hastings. We look forward to your testimony, and you may begin your presentation.

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

Mr. RAHALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. You are welcome.

Mr. RAHALL. Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren, members of the Committee, I do appreciate the opportunity to present to you on behalf of myself and our ranking member on the Natural Resources Committee, Doc Hastings, our committee's budget for the 111th Congress.

The amount we are requesting represents a 4.8 percent increase in 2009 over the committee's budget for the second session of the 110th Congress with an additional 5 percent increase for 2010. We believe this small increase is justifiable in light of the aggressive schedule of hearings the committee intends to conduct, including in the field.

For instance, our committee has jurisdiction over issues affecting Native Americans and the U.S. territorial possessions. In this regard the Native American population continues to be one of the most underserved in this Nation, and many tribes remain impoverished. Likewise, the Territories face their own set of issues, from political self-determination in Puerto Rico to the massive military buildup in Guam. It is our intention to bring the committee out to Indian Country and to our Territories so that we can see and hear firsthand the problems they face.

A brief review of the committee's oversight plan that was submitted with our budget proposal will also give you an idea of the other pressing issues the committee intends to address both through oversight and legislation. The increases we are proposing reflect the increased cost of vendor services, such as Web site development and Web hosting services, and we expect an increase in the cost of supplies, materials, and equipment in the latter half of the Congress and an increase in the cost of wireless telecommunications services and related equipment.

We have also requested a small cost of living adjustment for our staff, many of whom have dedicated their careers to public service. The committee is allocated 69 staffers in total. Of that number 40 serve in the majority, 20 serve the minority and 9 are shared employees, staffers such as system administrators, the chief clerk, and the chief financial officer. In this regard one-third of the salary budget is controlled by the minority.

The remainder of the budget, items such as travel and supplies, is treated openly. By this I mean there is no distinction or prejudice between the majority and the minority. Computers, copiers, and other equipment are repaired or replaced as needed without regard to whether it is a Democrat or Republican staffer using it. The same applies with travel.

Thank you again for giving me this opportunity, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Lungren, to present our proposed budget.

[The statement of Mr. Rahall follows:]

REMARKS OF U.S. REP. NICK J. RAHALL, II
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
before the House Administration Committee
February 11, 2009

Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren, thank you for allowing my colleague and Ranking Member Doc Hastings and myself to appear before you to present our committee's budget for the 111th Congress.

The amount we are requesting represents a 4.8 percent increase in 2009 over the committee's budget for the second session of the 110th Congress, with an additional 5 percent increase for 2010. We believe this small increase is justifiable in light of the aggressive schedule of hearings the committee intends to conduct, including in the field.

For instance, our committee has jurisdiction over issues affecting Native Americans and the U.S. territorial possessions. In this regard, the Native American population continues to be one of the most under-served in this Nation and many tribes remain impoverished. Likewise, the territories face their own set of issues, from political self-determination in Puerto Rico to the massive military buildup in Guam. It is our intention to bring the committee out to Indian Country, and to our territories, so that we can see and hear first-hand the problems they face.

A brief review of the committee's oversight plan that was submitted with our budget proposal will also give you an idea of the other pressing issues the committee intends to address, both through oversight and legislation.

The increases we are proposing reflect the increased cost of vendor services such as website development and web hosting services, an expected increase in the cost of supplies, materials and equipment in the latter half of this Congress, and an increase in the cost of wireless telecommunications service and related equipment. We have also requested a small cost of living adjustment for our staff, many of whom have dedicated their careers to public service.

The committee is allocated 69 staffers in total. Of that number, 40 serve the Majority, 20 serve the Minority, and nine are shared employees; staffers such as the systems administrators, the chief clerk and the chief financial officer. In this regard, one-third of the salary budget is controlled by the Minority.

The remainder of the budget, items such as travel and supplies, is treated openly. By this, I mean that there is no distinction or prejudice between the Majority and the Minority. Computers, copiers and other equipment are repaired or replaced as needed, without regard to whether it is a Democrat or Republican staffer using them. The same applies with travel.

Thank you again for giving me this opportunity to present the Committee's proposed budget.

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 104

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2009

Mr. RAHALL (for himself and Mr. HASTINGS of Washington) 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 Eleventh 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 $16,660,489 for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

SEC. 2. SESSION LIMITATIONS.

Of the amount specified in section 1—

(1) not more than $8,127,068 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2009, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2010; and

(2) not more than $8,533,421 shall be available for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2010, and ending immediately before noon on January 3, 2011.

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. Thank you. Mr. Hastings.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Thank you, Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren, and members of the committee. I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today. This is my first appearance as a ranking Republican on the Natural Resources Committee and my first opportunity to work closely with Chairman Rahall. However, it is not my first time in testifying before the House Administration and seeking funds as a chairman or ranking member. But you probably are not surprised that I much more like this position than coming here testifying as a ranking member and chairman of the Ethics Committee as I did in the past.

The CHAIRMAN. We have our own right here.

Mr. HASTINGS. I don't remember if we had bad memories of you or not. I don't recall.

Recognizing that Chairman Rahall and I are the last pair, at least we understand we are the last pair to testify today, I will keep my remarks very, very brief.

First, the budget submission you have received very clearly allocates two-thirds of staff salary funds to the majority and fully one-third to the minority.

Second, the submission reflects my request to Chairman Rahall to update the minority's Web site and Internet presence. Given the critical role that the Internet plays in communicating, disseminating information in today's world, I think that is a very high priority.

Finally, although past practice on this committee has not been for the minority to directly control one-third funds for travel and equipment, it is also my understanding that minority requests for equipment upgrades, needed materials and resources for travel have always been fully met. I certainly anticipated an even-handed administration of these nonsalaried funds in this Congress, and I will be working with Chairman Rahall in my new position as ranking member to ensure that the one-third budget rights of the minority are properly respected.

So thank you again for the opportunity, and I will be more than happy to respond to any questions that you may have.

[The statement of Mr. Hastings follows:]

TESTIMONY OF
THE HONORABLE DOC HASTINGS (R-WA)
RANKING REPUBLICAN, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
111TH CONGRESS COMMITTEE FUNDING REQUEST
FEBRUARY, 11 2009

Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today.

This is my first appearance as the Ranking Republican of the Natural Resources Committee, and my first Congress working closely with Chairman Rahall.

However, it is not my first time testifying before House Administration in seeking funds as a Chairman or a Ranking Member. You will not be surprised if I say that I very much enjoy sitting before you representing the Natural Resources Committee than in my prior capacities on the Ethics Committee.

Recognizing that Chairman Rahall and I are the last pair testifying before you today, I will keep my remarks very, very brief.

First, the budget submission you have received very clearly allocates two-thirds of staff salary funds to the Majority and a full one-third to the Minority.

Second, the submission reflects my request to Chairman Rahall to update the Minority's website and Internet presence. Given the critical role that the Internet plays in communicating and disseminating information in today's world, this is a high priority. With so many of the citizens most directly affected by the work of the Natural Resources Committee living in the Western United States, often in rural, isolated districts, better communication is key to informing them about the very real impacts the policies advanced by the Committee will have on their lives and livelihoods. These small farmers, ranchers, miners, fishermen and hunters often can't afford the cost or time it takes to travel to the Nation's Capitol to share their concerns. We must make the Committee as accessible as possible to these citizens and all Americans, and we can use the Internet and new technologies to do that.

Finally, although past practice on this Committee has not been for the Minority to directly control one-third of funds for travel or equipment, it is also my understanding that Minority requests for equipment upgrades, needed materials or resources, or travel have been fully met. I certainly anticipate an even-handed administration of these non-salary funds and will be working with Chairman Rahall in my new Ranking Member capacity to ensure the one-third budget rights of the Minority are properly respected.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Mr. Lungren.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Since you spoke, Congressman Hastings, about the fact that you are going to upgrade your Web site because we need to communicate better, one of the things that we have talked about here is even though we are going to authorize a 2-year cycle, then it might be good to have committees come back here after a year to report on how they are doing and to give us an idea of how their expectations have been met with the budget that they had presented to us and whether this changed circumstances. And it is also a part of increased transparency. And I would hope that both of you would fully cooperate with that.

Mr. RAHALL. Fine with me, Mr. Lungren.

Mr. HASTINGS. I have no problem with that. I think oversight is important when you are talking about the institution of Congress. For full disclosure, I am a proponent of biennial budgeting for the Congress. And I am glad you maybe have taken the first step to lead us to that position because I think biennial budgeting for the overall Congress would give us frankly more oversight of what our responsibilities are in all the standing committees. So I hope this is a precedent. But I certainly have no problem coming back and reporting what we have done the first year.

Mr. RAHALL. I agree.

Mr. LUNGREN. Mr. Chairman, I don't want to put you on the spot. Since you have Territories over there, do you know where Swains Island is? Do you have any idea where that is?

Mr. RAHALL. No, sir. That is one purpose for our increased travel budget. I will find out exactly.

Mr. LUNGREN. Here is a little factoid for you. I was doing some research on immigration and citizenship status. If you are born in American Samoa or Swains Island, not of American parents, of people who are residents of those two places you are not an American citizen. You are under U.S. law an American national, which is a unique type of status that we established years ago. As opposed to if you are in Guam, you are an American citizen. You can't vote for a Congress person. But if you move to the United States you can. So as I was going through that, I certainly know where American Samoa is. But I have no idea where the Swains Island is. But you might take a look at that and help me out next time.

Mr. RAHALL. We will do our best.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. I have no questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Harper.

Mr. HARPER. No questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you all. I thought that maybe you thought maybe Nicky was from Swains Island for a minute there.

Mr. LUNGREN. Not with that accent.

The CHAIRMAN. Not with that accent. Thank you, all. Thank you, Chairman Rahall.

Mr. RAHALL. Thank you, Chairman Brady.

The CHAIRMAN. We have got an answer.

Ms. LOFGREN. Swains Island is an atoll in the Tokelau chain, the most northwesterly island administered by American Samoa.

The CHAIRMAN. Where are the other places that you mention that? That will conclude our hearing. We do have three other committees that we need to have come in front of us, Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means and the Rules Committee. We will check our schedules and make sure that we can get that done to expedite this, to get this out of the way. Thank you all.

This hearing is now adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 4:15 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]

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