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ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH
CONGRESS

KYLE ANDERSON, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

February 5, 2015

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Minority Member
Select Committee on Benghazi
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Cummings:

Thank you for your letter of the February 5, 2015, which raised concerns about the Select Committee on Benghazi. In your letter, you raise concerns about the transparency of the House of Representatives. As Chairman of the Committee on House Administration, I have continually dedicated my energies to ensuring that the House is more open and transparent than ever before.

The Select Committee was authorized for this Congress through H. Res. 5, passed by the House on January 6, 2015. I will note that all of the signatories of your letter were present and voted on H. Res. 5. During the debate, Mr. Hoyer, the minority whip, specifically noted that the Select Committee on Benghazi would be continuing. If you wished to debate the timeframe or resources for the Select Committee on Benghazi, it would have been appropriate to do so during the debate on H. Res. 5. Indeed, Mrs. Slaughter offered an amendment to H. Res. 5, but nowhere in that amendment is a mention of the Select Committee on Benghazi. It, apparently, was not a priority.

In my mind, there is nothing more transparent than an open debate on House Floor on the first day of Congress with the resolution having been already available for Members to read before they vote on it. If the minority had concerns about the Select Committee on Benghazi, it should have offered an amendment when the Select Committee was authorized again for this Congress.

A request that the Committee have a hearing on the funding needs of a committee that has already been authorized for this Congress more than a month after the House voted to fund it for this Congress is remarkably odd. The House has previously established a select committee without a hearing from the Committee on House Administration. For example, when Mrs. Pelosi was Speaker, the House established the Select Committee on Voting Irregularities ("The Stolen Vote Committee"), concerning

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
February 5, 2015
Page 2

inappropriate actions of the presiding officer without a hearing from the Committee on House Administration.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Candice S. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Candice S. Miller

cc: The Honorable Robert A. Brady

CSM:ras