

Statement of Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith
Committee on House Administration
Judiciary Committee Budget for the 112th Congress
March 1, 2011

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the Judiciary Committee's budget request for the 112th Congress.

In this economy all Americans are forced to tighten their belts and do more with less. I recognize that and the Judiciary Committee will do the same. This budget submission requests a decrease in funding of five percent below the funding for the 111th Congress.

Among the important matters the Committee must consider are ensuring that federal law enforcement agencies have the necessary tools to prevent terrorist attacks; that

America's borders are secure; that our nation's children are safe from sexual predators; and that the administration of justice is fair and efficient within our federal judiciary.

In addition, the Committee plays an important role in strengthening our economy and putting Americans back to work, by ensuring robust and fair competition under the antitrust laws, promoting America's global competitiveness through our intellectual property laws, and improving the business climate by reining in burdensome and unnecessary regulations.

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

This budget request will still allow us to retain a highly qualified staff as the cornerstone of the Committee's

capacity to consider complicated and often controversial legislation and policy issues that fall within its jurisdiction.

I am pleased that Mr. Conyers supports this budget submission and note that it continues the commitment to give the Minority one-third of the staff slots along with one-third of the salaries.

I yield back the balance of my time.