

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

BEFORE

**THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION
MARCH 2, 2011**

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

**Written Testimony of the Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman**

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

112th Congress Budget Request

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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