

**Testimony of Agriculture Committee Ranking Member  
Collin C. Peterson  
House Administration Hearing on Committee Budgets  
March 1, 2011**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am pleased to be here today in support of the Agriculture Committee's budget request. As Chairman Lucas has said, the Agriculture Committee has a history of working in a bipartisan fashion. It's not always easy, but we work very hard to listen to each other and understand each other. The proposed reduction in the budget submission will require some belt-tightening but I am confident that the committee can get its work done.

As Chairman Lucas has outlined, there are a lot of challenges before us, including program oversight and farm bill preparation. Overseeing implementation of the financial reform legislation we passed last Congress will be necessary. I'm not a big fan of regulation, but in this case, these are things that have to be done to make sure that we don't get into another situation where the public has to bail out these large financial firms.

I also look forward to the Committee's hearings to review EPA regulations. Personally, I think the EPA just doesn't get it and I'm frankly getting sick of those outside of agriculture telling farmers how to do their jobs. We need to address these issues this year.

I look forward to working with Chairman Lucas this Congress and appreciate your consideration of the Agriculture Committee's budget request.