

**Statement before the Committee on House Administration
Funding for the Committee on Energy and Commerce
112th Congress
Henry Waxman, Ranking Member
March 2, 2011**

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and other members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the proposed budget for the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the 112th Congress. I am pleased to be here with the Committee Chairman, Fred Upton.

Chairman Upton and his staff have worked with me and my staff in a collegial manner in preparing this budget. I support this proposal and believe it is fair toward the Committee minority. The proposal you see continues the approach on majority/minority allocation of the budget that I used when Chairman of the Committee, with the minority receiving one-third of the Committee's funds.

As you know, the Committee on Energy and Commerce has jurisdiction over subjects with broad impact on public welfare, health, and the economy. We have responsibility for

overseeing implementation of the comprehensive health reform law to increase access to affordable care for Americans, making sure our food and drugs are safe, and ensuring the effectiveness of Medicaid and much of Medicare. We also have broad responsibility for the nation's energy and environment policy, the nation's telecommunications policy, and the nation's consumer protection laws.

The Committee has a heavy workload and requires expert staff to meet these responsibilities. For these reasons I support the Chairman's request for the full amount of funds allowed under H. Res. 22. In fact, I think we are underfunded.

That is why I would urge you to consider increasing the Committee's funding by reallocating some of the funds that went to the Select Committee on Global Warming to the Committee. The Energy and Commerce Committee has primary responsibility in the House for examining the public health and energy security issues posed by global warming and greenhouse gas emissions. The Chairman and I may have different perspectives on these issues but we fully agree that the

Committee should be spearheading a close review of these subjects. Some additional resources from the funds from the Select Committee would not increase the overall amount of committee funding, but it would help us do our job for the American people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.