

Statement of Chairman Spencer Bachus

Committee on Financial Services

November 30, 2011

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am pleased to appear before you today as the Chairman of the Committee on Financial Services.

Our budget continues the policy of providing the Minority a full one-third of both the funding and staff slots allocated to the Committee.

For the first session of the 112th Congress, 2011, our Committee has managed the 5% budget reduction prudently, and it has not negatively affected our day-to-day operations. Recognizing that further cuts could occur, we did not fill all of our vacant slots, thus avoiding the need to terminate any staff from our payroll or reduce salaries. Therefore, at this point, we will have remaining funds at the end of 2011. The budget cuts have not been without impact, however. The positions we have not filled are for analytic and support staff, the absence of which has restricted the resources we can devote to forecasting and anticipating issues that may arise in the Committee's jurisdiction.

For the second session of the 112th Congress, 2012, we have been advised to plan for an additional 6.4% reduction in the amount allocated to our committee for the year. We will

continue to be cautious in spending and staffing. It will be tight, but we anticipate that we would be able to operate given the 6.4% additional reduction. However, we would lack the ability to fill vacant staff slots, which again reduces our ability to look for problems in the future.

Our Committee continues with a significant amount of work ahead given our nation's economy and financial health. Therefore, I am asking you to continue to provide us with the resources we need to do our job, particularly in an era where our oversight of the economy is so critical.