

**Statement of The Hon. John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
before the  
House Committee on Administration  
November 30, 2011**

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee, I am pleased to appear before you today with Chairman Smith to speak with you about the impact of the proposed budget cuts on the House Judiciary Committee.

During the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, the House Judiciary Committee has continued its tradition of being one of the most active committees in the House. Chairman Smith has already executed an ambitious hearing and legislative schedule. As of this budgetary hearing, the Judiciary Committee has had:

- 79 Subcommittee hearings and 8 Full Committee hearings on issues ranging from agency oversight to intellectual property to immigration
- More than 640 bills referred to the Committee, or nearly 20% of the all bills in the House
- 43 bills marked up, 32 bills reported out of Committee, and 20 bills passed by the House
- And 8 bills passed into public law, accounting for 25% of the legislative total for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress

As a general matter, my view is that it is shortsighted to be continually cutting congressional budgets. I understand the tremendous fiscal pressures the country is under, but I do not believe that we help solve the crisis if we underfund the body that needs to work better and move cooperatively to make the decisions needed to

improve our economy. To me this is being “penny wise and pound foolish.”

This is particularly true for the Judiciary Committee. Considering how busy our Committee has been, I am very concerned that a cut of 6.4% would negatively impact our work. As with other Committees, the Judiciary Committee has already been cut by 5%, and a further 6.4% reduction may only further hamper our overall productivity and undermine our ability to retain highly qualified staff. In particular, I believe the cuts will make it harder for the Minority to get our message out and develop and implement a more effective press strategy.

I am able to report that Chairman Smith and I have continued to maintain our excellent working relationship, begun while I was chair and continued over to the current Congress. We have a somewhat unique situation in terms of the Majority controlling all non-salary items, but I have never had a problem or issue with respect to our budget requests in this area.

I look forward to our continued work together for the rest of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, and I hope that the House Committee on Administration reconsiders the budgetary cuts to our Committee. Thank you for your time this morning, and I welcome any questions you may have.