

Veterans' Affairs  
Jeff Miller, Chairman

**House Administration Budget Hearing**  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
**Wednesday, 30 NOV 2011**

*Topic: COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR 2011 AND 2012*

*Up to 5 Mins.*

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**THANK YOU CHAIRMAN LUNGREN  
AND RANKING MEMBER BRADY FOR  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR  
BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE TO  
DISCUSS THE COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS BUDGET FOR THE  
112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS.**

**RANKING MEMBER BOB FILNER JOINS  
ME HERE TODAY.**

**AS YOU KNOW, THE COMMITTEE HAS  
OVERSIGHT OVER THE DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

**VA IS THE SECOND LARGEST FEDERAL  
AGENCY, EMPLOYING NEARLY 300,000  
PEOPLE WITH A CURRENT BUDGET OF  
ROUGHLY \$125 BILLION DOLLARS.**

**THE COMMITTEE HAS AN AGGRESSIVE PLAN OF ACTION AND HAS ALREADY ENGAGED IN OVERSIGHT IN SEVERAL OF THE MANY AREAS INCLUDED IN ITS OVERSIGHT PLAN.**

**THE VA COMMITTEE'S TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE 112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS WAS A 5% DECREASE IN FUNDS FROM THE 111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS.**

**WE MANAGED TO FIND THOSE SAVINGS FROM DECREASING OUR SALARY AND EQUIPMENT BUDGET AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.**

**WE HAVE HAD TO MAKE SOME TOUGH DECISIONS ON STAFFING, EQUIPMENT, AND TRAVEL THIS YEAR BASED ON OUR CUTS.**

**WE WILL BE TURNING MONEY BACK IN DUE TO THE FACT THAT WE HAVE NOT FULLY STAFFED THE MAJORITY TO ALLOW US SOME FLEXIBILITY WITHIN THAT 5% DECREASE FOR ANY NEEDED PURCHASES AND COMMITTEE TRAVEL SINCE WE HAVE SUCH A CONSTRAINED TRAVEL BUDGET.**

**THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE TRAVEL IN WHICH OUR MEMBERS ENGAGE IS FUNDED BY THE VA, THE VERY AGENCY OVER WHICH WE ARE CHARGED WITH OVERSIGHT.**

**THE COMMITTEE'S EQUIPMENT FUNDS WERE ONE-THIRD OF WHAT WAS REQUESTED IN THE 111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS, AND THEREFORE WE MADE ONLY MAJOR PURCHASES WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.**

**BY THE END OF THE YEAR, WE HOPE TO REPLACE SOME OUTDATED EQUIPMENT AND A CONSTITUENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM THAT HAS NOT BEEN UPDATED SINCE 2005.**

**WE HAVE ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED REQUESTS FROM THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY STAFF FOR NEEDED ITEMS AND WILL CONSIDER THEM FOR PURCHASE WITH OUR REMAINING BALANCE FROM 2011.**

**AN ADDITIONAL 6.4% CUT FROM OUR 2012 BUDGET WILL BE CHALLENGING BUT WE ARE ANTICIPATING AND PLANNING FOR IT BY DECREASING THE TOTAL SALARY ALLOTMENT NUMBER AND PROVIDING THE MINORITY WITH ONE-THIRD OF THAT SALARY BUDGET.**

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**THIS IS A SMALL COMMITTEE  
CHARGED WITH AWESOME  
RESPONSIBILITY: OVERSIGHT OF  
THOSE WHO CARE AND PROVIDE  
SERVICES FOR OUR NATION'S  
WARRIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

**MR. CHAIRMAN, YOU HAVE MY  
ASSURANCE THAT WE WILL ACCOUNT  
FOR, AND STRETCH EVERY DOLLAR  
AFFORDED US AS WE OUT-STRIDE THE  
EXPECTATIONS PLACED UPON US.**

**I AM HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY  
QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.**