

**Testimony for the Committee on Administration**

**U.S. House of Representatives**

**by**

**Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson**

**Ranking Member, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology**

**November 30, 2011**

Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about our Committee funding. Chairman Hall has already presented an overview of the Committee's finances, so I will be brief in my remarks.

As Chairman Hall has noted, we had to absorb a 5% cut to our budgets this year, as did other Committees. He has already described areas impacted by the cuts. I would just add that the 5% cut, combined with uncertainty about potential additional cuts in the second Session of the 112<sup>th</sup>, led the Minority to defer filling two staff slots for the time being as well as to cut the salaries of most of the staff who were retained from the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. This has not been a desirable situation, but it was deemed prudent to ensure that we would not have to lay off additional staff beyond those who lost their jobs when we went into the Minority or have to make additional cuts to salaries in the event that Congress mandated additional cuts to our Committee's budget in the second Session of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. As a result, we will be able to end the current year with a surplus of approximately \$154,000.

I do not anticipate being able to have a similar surplus in 2012, as we would like to fill the vacant Minority slots. Chairman Hall has already outlined some of the impacts on the Committee of the proposed 6.4% funding cut for 2012. I would just add that we had to defer most oversight travel to laboratories, Federal R&D Centers, and other facilities due to Committee and Congressional commitments and schedules this year, but I anticipate that such travel will be necessary in the coming year. In sum, an additional 6.4% cut to Committee funding would adversely impact our ability to carry out the oversight responsibilities that the

American people have entrusted to us. I thus respectfully hope that our Committee will be provided with much needed budgetary stability next year by not moving forward with additional funding cuts in 2012.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today.