

Statement of Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith  
Committee on House Administration  
Judiciary Committee Budget for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, Second Session  
Wednesday, November 30, 2011  
FINAL

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**Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Judiciary Committee's budget for the Second Session of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.**

**In this economy all Americans are forced to tighten their belts and do more with less. In recognition of that, earlier this year Ranking Member Conyers and I requested a budget cut of five percent below the funding for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. Now we are being asked to accept a further funding cut of 6.4 percent.**

**In the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, so far the Judiciary Committee has sent more bills to the House floor than any other committee in Congress.**

**Among the important issues the Committee continues to consider are ensuring that federal law enforcement agencies have the necessary tools to prevent terrorist attacks; that America's borders are secure; that our nation's children are safe from sexual predators; and that the administration of justice is fair and efficient within both the Justice Department and federal law enforcement agencies and within our federal judiciary.**

**In addition, the Committee plays an important role in strengthening our economy and putting Americans back to work. We ensure robust and fair competition under the antitrust laws, promote America's global competitiveness through our intellectual property laws, improve our immigration laws to attract the best and brightest from around the world and bolster the business climate by reining in burdensome and unnecessary regulations.**

**During the first year of this Congress, the Committee worked to enact a historic patent reform bill that will make our economy much more productive by speeding up the issuance of patents and improving the quality of those patents. New jobs should follow as a result. This bill is the first major revision of the patent system in 60 years and is the result of a project started several years ago.**

**In the next two weeks, the House is considering three significant regulatory reform bills reported by the Judiciary Committee to update a system designed in the 1940's for an industrial society and make it more responsive in today's global information society.**

**All of these issues are critical to the safety and well being of millions of Americans.**

**Because of this, it is vital that we retain a highly qualified staff as the cornerstone of the Committee's capacity to consider complicated and often controversial legislation and policy issues that fall within its jurisdiction.**

**To attract and retain quality staff, the Committee must be able to offer compensation that is at least somewhat competitive with the private sector.**

**This is particularly challenging when a disproportionate number of committee staff are attorneys with substantial public policy expertise who could command higher salaries from the private sector.**

**Although I would rather not see the Committee budget cut for a second year in a row, I support our Leadership and this Committee's decision to reduce our budget by 6.4 percent in the coming year. I will do what is necessary to ensure that the Judiciary Committee is even more productive while operating with less.**

**I yield back the balance of my time.**

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