

Rules Ranking Member Louise Slaughter  
Statement to House Administration

Nov. 30 2011

Thank you Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady and Members of the Committee. It is a pleasure to appear before you today regarding the budget request for the Committee on Rules.

As I testified to this panel earlier this year, the Rules Committee has had a long tradition -- regardless of which party controls the House -- of conducting its administrative functions in a collegial, non-partisan manner.

Although we often disagree about important policy issues, we both have a deep respect for our Committee, and we have always managed to ensure that it can fulfill its unique and essential role.

That tradition of working in a bipartisan fashion on our budget and administrative activities continues today.

I agree with Chairman Dreier that the Rules Committee has done its part during this Congress to reduce costs and tighten our belts -- just like so many other Americans are doing in these difficult economic times.

And we are fully prepared to continue those efforts in the next session, as we implement the additional cuts that have been approved by the House.

I would like to highlight one important concern that our Chairman has raised in his remarks – a concern which I share.

Given the unique circumstances of our Committee, and the relatively small size of our budget compared to other House panels, an additional 6.4 percent reduction next year could have a disproportionate impact on the minority.

Given this concern, I appreciate Chairman Dreier's commitment to work with us next year to make sure the essential needs of the minority are met.

As Ranking Member, I look forward to working with Chairman Dreier to continue to make our committee transparent, fair and responsible.