

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY
THE HONORABLE FRED UPTON
CHAIRMAN
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE**

BEFORE

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

November 30, 2011

**Budget Request for the Committee on Energy and Commerce
For the Second Session of the 112th Congress**

**Written Testimony of the Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce**

112th Congress Budget Request

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of the Committee on Energy and Commerce's budget request for the second session of the 112th Congress.

I can report that in 2011 we operated under the 5% reduction from our funding in the 111th Congress, consistent with the requirements of H.J. Res. 22, which demonstrates our commitment to deficit reduction. The impact on our payroll line was mitigated by the nature of our hiring schedule in the first quarter of the year and by a decision to leave a number of staff slots unfilled. We were

very meticulous about our direct operating expenses, limiting field hearings, Member travel, and subscriptions.

Mr. Chairman, we are living within the spirit and letter of the 5% cut. We can, with some adjustments, live within the proposed additional cut of 6.4% coming in the second session of this Congress. To manage this cut, I do not expect to fill remaining staff slots and in many cases not replace departing staff. Additionally, we will continue to constrain upgrades of Committee equipment and computers. And our ability to conduct field hearings – an important function of the Committee – will be severely limited.

We remain committed to a 2/3 – 1/3 split of the Committee budget, with an agreed to payroll adjustment to

prescribed Committee administrative and financial responsibilities for both sides.

We will endeavor to allocate resources – both financial and staff – to meet the goals and responsibilities of our Committee. An example is our incurring the cost of software to manage the thousands of documents requested as part of investigations and give our small oversight staff an opportunity to properly conduct investigations into wasteful government spending.

Also, we hope CHA can help all Committees with the high cost of information access and management – such as LexisNexis, CQ, etc., as well as deal with the new cost of acquiring printing help from the Government Printing Office. We must meet our legal responsibility to prepare

and print hearing transcripts from our Committee. Just this year, we held over 100 hearings and markups. I attach as an example of our output my third quarter report to our Members.

Again, I thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify today, and of course will be happy to answer any questions.