

**Statement of Dave Camp, Ranking Republican
Committee on Ways and Means
Before the Committee on House Administration
January 27, 2010**

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Lungren and Members of the Committee, I appreciate having the opportunity to appear this morning with Chairman Rangel in support of our budget allocation for the second session of the 111th Congress.

I want to express my appreciation to Chairman Rangel for working with me and my staff and his continued support of granting the Minority full control of one third of the budget and resources.

As we testified last year, we do need substantial resources to do our jobs effectively. The Ways and Means Committee saw many high profile issues pass through our hearing room during the first session of this Congress. There are still many difficult challenges that face the average American, and many of the most important policies to be considered this year are likely to originate in the Committee, particularly as all of us focus on ways to create jobs.

Speaking on behalf of the Minority office, given the current tough economic times facing many Americans, we spent our 2009 budget allocation in a fiscally responsible manner. As such many of our investments in information technology, equipment and staff salaries were restrained during this past year.

On a whole our Committee is slated to receive an increase of 3.75% over our 2009 budget allocation. As we did in 2009, the Minority office will utilize these funds in a fiscally responsible manner. We hope as the economy begins to show signs of improvement, further investments in information technology and staff salaries would be more appropriate.

I also offer my support to Chairman Rangel's request for an increase in our Committee staff allotment from 82 to 85 staff. Under this increase, the Majority office would receive two additional staff slots and the Minority office receiving one additional staff slot. This is a modest increase, but a needed increase. As the work of the Committee increases, so too does the workload we place on our staff. The increase in staff slots coupled with our 2010 budget will help us facilitate hiring and keeping quality staff.

Accordingly, I again offer my support the Ways and Means Committee's 2010 budget allocation. An increase in our current budget will provide additional resources to meet the challenges of the 111th Congress Second Session.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify again, and I would be pleased to respond to any questions you might have.