

Statement before the Committee on House Administration  
Status of Funding for the Committee on Energy and Commerce  
111<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Henry Waxman, Chairman  
January 27, 2010

Chairman Brady, I want to thank you, Ranking Member Lungren, and the other members of this Committee for the opportunity to report on the Committee on Energy and Commerce's 111<sup>th</sup> Congress expenditures. I am pleased to be here with the Committee's Ranking Member, Joe Barton.

When I testified before you last February, I described the ambitious agenda planned for the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. At this halfway point in the Congress, I am proud to report that the Committee has already accomplished a significant portion of that agenda.

In the past year, the Committee reported comprehensive legislation addressing three of the top priorities of the new Obama Administration and the American public: health care reform, climate change legislation, and energy independence. We also reported food safety reform, tobacco legislation, chemical and drinking water security legislation, and consumer financial protection legislation.

At the same time, the Committee maintained a vigorous oversight schedule, including hearings on issues relating to the complexity of the task of reducing greenhouse gas emissions; the future of our electricity grid; government management of high-containment bioresearch laboratories; government regulation of medical devices; the Medicare and Medicaid programs; business practices in the health insurance market; the collection of consumer data; broadband programs created by the recovery act; and cybersecurity issues; among many others.

At the beginning of the year, I asked for an increase in funds so that the Committee could hire staff to fill gaps in expertise and ensure sufficient support for the heavy anticipated workload facing the Committee and its subcommittees. I was pleased that the Committee received an 8.3% increase over the previous year's funding. Consistent with our request, the Committee used those funds to hire staff including a senior Medicare expert, a senior attorney with significant experience in environmental regulatory work, and staff for the Chairman Emeritus to assist with the health reform effort.

Overall, after outstanding invoices and obligations are paid, the Committee will have spent 99% of the total funds provided to the Committee. I believe this figure underscores that our budget for this year was planned and executed in a responsible manner.

The Energy and Commerce Committee will continue to carry out a full agenda in the second year of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. We believe the funds provided for the Committee in the funding resolution are consistent with the projected budget needs of the Committee for the remainder of this Congress.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.