

Statement of the Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Before the Committee on House Administration
January 27, 2010

Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Lungren, I am pleased to be here today to report on our expenditures for the first session of the 111th Congress.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce has been a battleground for policy ideas and differences. We have worked on some of the most important topics that affect Americans. But I want to assure you that we have not had to fight over our funding allocation.

Since we appeared here last year, Chairman Waxman and I have never had to discuss the budget, because there have been no problems. The budget has run smoothly according to the 2/3 for the majority and 1/3 for the minority.

The Republicans did not spend all the money we were allocated due, in part, to some personnel departures where the replacement to fill the slot lagged.

Aside from personnel spending, which consumes the lion share of our budget, our largest spending category was equipment. In addition to purchasing new computers to replace older laptops that were out of warranty, we used unspent funds to purchase a new copier at the end of 2009 and replace an ailing copier we originally budgeted for purchase in 2010. We do not anticipate any additional major equipment purchases.

Looking forward to this year's budget, the allocation for the Republicans is adequate to meet our needs. As I stated last year, we will find a way to make do with any amount we are given so long as it is a fair split between the majority and minority.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.