

Statement of
The Hon. Bart Gordon, Chairman
Committee on Science and Technology
before the
Committee on House Administration
January 27, 2010

I know this is a busy day for you as you hear from all the Committees regarding their 2009 budget, so I will try to be brief.

First of all, let me say how much I appreciated the budget allotment we were provided for 2009. I think we've used it judiciously, and I welcome the opportunity to discuss it with you.

Our total budget for the 111th Congress is \$14,048,942, divided into \$6,890,114 for 2009 and \$7,158,828 for 2010. For 2009 we are currently projecting an overall surplus of approximately \$274,000.

As is always the case, personnel costs account for the bulk of our budget. In 2009, we allocated almost 93% of our budget for personnel costs.

On the Majority side, we allow some room each year in our salary budget for lump sum bonuses and merit and COLA increases in an effort to reward good work and recruit and retain our highly-trained staff. We had a couple of vacancies that lingered for a few months during 2009, but they were filled at the end of the year. Using money we budgeted and the surplus accumulated during the two vacancies, I authorized lump sum bonuses for staff effective January 1 of this year. Following those payments and the salary expense of January 1 and 2, the Majority had a payroll surplus of approximately \$9600.

The Minority receives one-third of the payroll budget, and they had a surplus of approximately \$180,000, giving us a total surplus in the payroll category of approximately \$190,000.

Other major budget categories are travel, supplies and equipment. While all our invoices for the year are not yet in, we estimate a surplus of \$32,000 in travel and \$34,000 in equipment. We're over our targeted budget for supplies, but I'm told some items we considered to be equipment actually fall into the accounting code for supplies.

As is often the case, we hoped to get more travel completed than we had time to accomplish. Staff and Members get caught up in the hectic legislative schedule, and we aren't always able to take as much time as we probably should to get out and see some of the programs and projects that we authorize and exercise oversight of.

As to equipment, we tried to buy everything that we had planned for while still leaving some room in the budget for last minute emergencies should there be a need to make an unplanned replacement purchase of equipment.

Going forward in 2010, we will continue and complete the replacement of all the desktop computers at the Committee as planned and will continue to replace copiers and printers as needed. The other large equipment purchase planned for 2010 is to replace the Lektriever filing system we have had for about 20 years.

We continue to seek qualified professional staff members in order to enhance our expertise and develop some redundancy in a few of our issue areas. People with the advanced scientific degrees

we look for often have many options for employment in addition to service on Capitol Hill. The Committee's current budget allocation for 2010 will allow us to compete for new staff while also retaining the staff of highly-degreed professionals we already have. I have requested an additional staff slot for the Committee which can be supported in the existing 2010 budget.

In closing, let me say that Ranking Member Hall and I continue to work well together as do our staff, and we look forward to a productive 2010.