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MUFTAH M. MCCARTIN, STAFF DIRECTOR  
(202) 225-9091  
[www.rules.house.gov](http://www.rules.house.gov)



**Committee on Rules**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
H-312 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515-6269

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

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MINORITY OFFICE  
H-152, THE CAPITOL  
(202) 225-9191

**Statement of the Honorable DAVID DREIER  
before  
The Committee on House Administration**

February 3, 2010

Thank you Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren, and Members of the Committee.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear before the Committee on House Administration during this oversight hearing on funding for the standing committees of the House.

I am pleased to report that the Rules Committee's minority funding needs over the past year have been met. We benefit from the fact that our staffs enjoy a close working relationship, and Chairwoman Slaughter has continued the bipartisan tradition of ensuring that the minority has the resources it needs to meet its obligations as members of the Rules Committee.

The agreement since 1995 has been that the Minority controls 1/3 of the funds and slots allocated for staff. While we do not control any portion of the remainder of the budget, there has been a long-standing agreement that the needs of the minority with respect to travel, equipment, and services will be met, and the Chairwoman agreed to all of our requests in 2009.

The only deficiency that I can identify is not related to the needs of the minority, but rather the public. As everyone knows, our hearing room is among the smallest on either side of the Capitol, and yet the decisions made there are far reaching. Whether health care, energy, the economy, or spending, the process established by the Rules Committee often determines the outcome for legislation on the floor.

And yet the Rules Committee is the only committee — other than the Ethics and Intelligence committees, which must necessarily conduct their work in secret — which does not have cameras in its main hearing room. It's of little consequence to say that C-SPAN must deploy their limited resources on short notice if the public is to have a window into our work.

When I was Chairman, we began to upgrade the hearing room facilities and would have eventually added cameras to allow our proceedings to be webcast. The drawings of the room show where the cameras would be mounted and some of the infrastructure work has already been done.

This Committee has maintained a dedicated source of funding for hearing room upgrades, so it is not a matter of funding. The right thing to do is to allow the American public the opportunity to see the work of the Rules Committee whether or not C-SPAN can bring in its cameras.

Thank you, and I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.