

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SUBCOMMITTEE**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**MARCH 27, 2012**

**OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN CRENSHAW**

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Today we will receive testimony from the Officers of the House of Representatives: The Honorable Dan J. Strodel, the Chief Administrative Officer, The Honorable Karen L. Haas, the Clerk of the House and The Honorable Paul D. Irving, the Sergeant at Arms. Also in attendance are: Ms. Grafenstine, the Inspector General; Mr. Kircher, General Counsel; Ms. Strokoff, Legislative Counsel; and, Mr. Seep, Law Revision Counsel. We are pleased to welcome you here today and thank each of you and your employees for your dedication and service to the House.

The fiscal year 2013 budget request that we will consider is \$1.2 billion (\$1,225,680,000), the same as enacted in fiscal year 2012. I think it is important to note that since last January we have made many efforts to do more with less within the House. We have reduced the House's appropriation by over \$143 million, or 10.5% -- a substantial savings. As we move through this hearing today, I am looking forward to highlighting past efforts and focusing on where we go in the future.

In total the Officer's budgets have been reduced by 11% since last January. Each of your offices has played a role in accomplishing these reductions. While your entire statements will be made part of the record, I would like to ask each of you to summarize your remarks and highlight how you have done more with less, both in terms of your budget and personnel.

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