

**Statement of Chairman Dave Camp**  
**Committee on Ways and Means**  
**Testimony before the Committee on House Administration**  
**Regarding the Ways and Means Committee Budget for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
**Tuesday, March 5, 2013**

Madam Chairman, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee, I am here today to present the proposed budget for the Committee on Ways and Means for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. I am joined by our Ranking Member, Sandy Levin.

As you consider how to allocate funding to the different House Committees, I ask that you keep in mind the Ways and Means Committee's past record of fiscal restraint, the additional work we have already asked of the staff -- which is the finest in Congress -- and the meaningful work the Committee produced last Congress -- not to mention the aggressive agenda that is before us this Congress. As the panel with jurisdiction over so many aspects of our economy, it is critical to consider how decisions made about committee budgets will affect our ability to advance our country's number one priority -- strengthening the economy to generate much-needed job creation. Ensuring this Committee has the resources to fulfill that mission is essential.

In the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Ways and Means Committee held 112 hearings and 18 business meetings. Of the 68 major pieces of legislation that became law last Congress, more than one out of every four of those laws came from Ways and Means. Let me repeat that, the Ways and Means Committee was responsibly for over one-quarter of the bills signed into law during the last two years. And, that is just the tip of the iceberg. As we know, much of work is left to languish in the Senate. All told, the Committee had 54 bills considered on the floor of the House last Congress -- nearly one for every week we were in session.

Some of the major laws include: the repeal of the onerous 1099 IRS paperwork mandate in ObamaCare; passage of three long-stalled trade agreements and the reform of Trade Adjustment Assistance; and reform of the federal unemployment program. We also began to lay the groundwork for comprehensive tax reform by holding over 20 public hearings, including three joint hearings with the Senate Finance Committee (which is unprecedented on tax issues during the prior 70 years), as well as work on discussion drafts to reform our outdated international tax system and the taxation of financial products created by Wall Street.

Both the full Committee and its six Subcommittees will continue to be very active this Congress. The Committee will focus on:

- Comprehensive tax reform which is needed to make the tax code simpler and fairer, and to strengthen our economy to create more jobs and higher wages;
- International trade policy issues to expand our opportunities to sell American made goods and services around the world, including a potential trade agreement with Europe and completing work on the Trans-Pacific Partnership -- a critical

- counter-balance to China's continued growth and dominance in that region;
- Improving the nations welfare and job-training programs to better prepare families for a new career;
- Addressing entitlement reform to protect critical safety net programs like Social Security and Medicare by examining ways to improve how the programs are designed and benefits delivered (i.e. reform to the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate); and
- Vigorous oversight over matters within our jurisdiction, including the implementation of ObamaCare.

Beyond the sheer scope of activities the Committee is undertaking, the technical nature of the policies behind each issue increases the staffing costs of the Committee's operations. Education and experience are key requirements for our staff as we address complex matters such as tax, health care, debt and the economy. Most staff have advanced degrees, whether in law, economics, or public policy, as well as years of experience in and outside of government. Nevertheless, our staff is relatively small, especially compared to some other committees, the scope and complexity of our jurisdiction, and levels of legislative activity.

To be candid, given recent budget cuts, the Committee staff is already over-burdened, but I am proud to report they continue to over-perform. Because the Committee's funding was reduced by approximately 13 percent last Congress, we were forced to leave a number of staff slots vacant. Currently, we have eight open positions on the majority side – that is roughly a 15 percent reduction in the staff size. This has meant, for example, that the Committee has been unable to hire a chief economist, which is a critical position for the Committee, especially this Congress as we tackle comprehensive tax reform and prepare to negotiate with both the Senate and the Department of the Treasury. Additionally, the Committee is replete with examples of a single staff being tasked to fulfill roles usually assigned to multiple personnel. In some instances, a single staff person is juggling the workload and responsibilities of as many as three separate and distinct positions. Further cuts would critically hinder our ability to conduct the aggressive legislative and oversight agenda I have mentioned, and would require me to cut back on staff or reduce staff salaries, which would surely lead to staff departures.

As for the minority's budget, we have a long tradition at the Committee of the minority receiving a full one-third of the entire Committee budget and staff. In addition to receiving their allocation, the minority gets to spend their monies as they see fit without interference from the majority. I will continue this practice in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.

I thank the Chairman and the Members of this Committee for this opportunity to present our budget request and justification. I look forward to any questions you may have.