

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
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Washington, DC 20515-6515

Statement of
The Honorable Sam Graves (MO-6)
Chairman
Committee on Small Business
Hearing on Committee Funding
House Administration Committee, Washington DC
March 6, 2013

Thank you, Chairwoman Miller and Ranking Member Brady, for the opportunity to discuss the 2013 budget request of the Committee on Small Business.

I am proud of the Small Business Committee's accomplishments in the last Congress. The Committee held 80 hearings, including 9 field hearings; engaged in aggressive oversight of the Administration across 20 agencies; enacted Federal contracting reforms; reauthorized important research grant programs; and developed unique communications tools to reach out to small businesses across America. We also have been pleased to serve as a resource to *all* Members of the House who call on us for assistance with their small business constituents' needs.

The Committee has done all of this work on a tight budget, as we should. We understand that Federal spending must be curtailed, and we have been willing to prioritize and save. In fact, last year, the Committee was one of three asked to take an additional one percent reduction in the across-the-board cut that applied to other House committees.

The Committee provides one-third of its resources to the minority, over which they have full control. I appreciate the sacrifices and tough decisions the Ranking Member has made to ensure the Committee lives within its means while meeting our responsibilities.

Today, we are here to talk about additional cuts in 2013 and how various budget scenarios might affect Committee operations. Like most committees, the vast majority of our funding is devoted to personnel – currently we have 28 staff doing the work to keep the Committee running and meeting our oversight and legislative responsibilities. Frankly, we could use a few more staff, but knowing that more budget cuts were likely, the majority made decisions not to hire and to combine staff duties, so that our payroll would be sustainable in 2013. We hope that will be the case, but honestly, an 11 percent cut would require us to make some difficult personnel decisions.

The Committee does not have a significant amount of non-salary spending to look to for savings. These expenditures give us the tools to do our work – communications, reference materials, supplies, equipment – there is really not much fat to cut if we want to do effective oversight and run an efficient organization.

If the Committee's budget is level-funded or set at 105 percent of what was actually spent in 2012 the outlook improves. We still may not be able to hire all the additional staff we need, but we would be able to maintain the status quo.

The budgets that the Committee has submitted under these scenarios reflect this reality. Our budget submissions show relatively flat or slightly reduced spending in non-personnel budget categories. The personnel budget is adjusted for whichever scenario occurs.

I appreciate that the House Administration Committee has a tough job to do in administering yet another round of budget cuts to committees. We will do our best work with whatever resources are provided, but we hope the Members will consider that our Committee is already doing more with less and has an important role to fulfill as advocates for our nation's best job creators.

I thank the Committee members for their time, and I'd be pleased to take any questions.