

STATEMENT OF HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

TO

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

March 6, 2013

Good morning, Chairwoman Miller, Ranking Member Bradley, and Members of the Committee. I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak today about our Committee funding for the 113th Congress. Chairman Smith has already presented an overview of the Committee's finances, so I will just make brief remarks.

As the Chairman has already noted, we had to absorb a disproportionate cut relative to other Committees in the 112th Congress. The result of that 16.4% reduction in our budget since 2010 was to force us to defer filling several staff slots as well as to cut the salaries of most of the staff who were retained from the 111th Congress. We also had to significantly limit Committee oversight travel by Members and staff.

As we start the 113th Congress, Chairman Smith and I are committed to having the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology be active on the many important oversight and legislative matters within our jurisdiction. That jurisdiction is very broad and complex, ranging from areas as different as nanotechnology, space exploration, manufacturing technology, energy innovation, and STEM education, to name just a few. Attracting and retaining staff with the required experience and skills, as well as providing opportunities for Members to visit the laboratories and other R&D organizations and talk to their personnel requires resources, and the level of cuts we have already absorbed has complicated those efforts.

I would argue that the sequestration cuts that have now gone into effect will have impacts on our agencies that will only increase our oversight responsibilities, not diminish them. In addition, our Committee will be undertaking a number of major legislative reauthorizations in the 113th Congress, including COMPETES and NASA, as well as a number of energy R&D programs.

In closing, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will have an important role in determining policies that will impact the future of both our economy and our quality of life. While I think resources beyond those contained in the Chairman's request are warranted to enable us to do our jobs effectively, I would request that at a minimum the Committee grant us the funding level requested in the Chairman's testimony.

Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.