

**Testimony of Agriculture Committee Ranking Member  
Collin C. Peterson  
House Administration Hearing on Committee Budgets  
March 6, 2013**

Madame Chairman and members of the Committee, I am pleased to be here today in support of the Agriculture Committee's budget request. As Chairman Lucas has said, the Agriculture Committee has a history of working in a bipartisan fashion. It's not always easy, but we work very hard to listen and understand each other.

As Chairman Lucas has outlined, there are many challenges before us, including the completion of a five-year farm bill and CFTC reauthorization. The farm bill has proven to be a tough project to finish. The Committee has worked hard over the past couple of years to use all opportunities to get the bill done. We will continue the effort this year which I hope and expect will mean a final bill signed into law. Financial reform oversight will continue to be a focus for the Committee as we consider CFTC reauthorization. We need to make sure that we do not repeat some of the mistakes of the past with financial sector regulation.

The public record shows that we are a frugal committee. We strive to use our resources and staff as efficiently and effectively as possible. Through our work, Chairman Lucas has been fair to the minority. We have no complaints about the division of resources by two-thirds and one-third. The majority has worked to protect the rights of the minority. We appreciate the Chairman's efforts in this regard. It helps make the rest of our work all the easier when we agree on policy decisions and, perhaps more importantly, when we disagree on policy.

I thank the Committee today for the opportunity to visit with you about your important work on behalf of the House. I appreciate your consideration of the Agriculture Committee's budget request.