

**Remarks of U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
before the Committee on House Administration  
March 5, 2013**

**Chairman Miller, Ranking Member Brady and Committee Members –**

During the last Congress, the Committee Minority was treated fairly. I controlled one-third of the budget for staff salaries, and other matters such as equipment and supplies were dealt with on a non-partisan basis. I do not anticipate this changing under Chairman Shuster.

You have asked House committees to submit two budget options – one which would provide for an 11 percent reduction from the current spending authorization, the other which would provide for a five percent increase from actual total expenses.

In the event the 11 percent reduction option becomes final, I would have to reduce my committee staff salaries by \$165,048 if the traditional 10 percent of the budget is dedicated to equipment, supplies and maintenance. To put that figure into perspective, if that cut is applied equally across-the-board, each one of my staffers' salary would be reduced by \$6,877.

In order for us to do our jobs for the American people, it is essential that we are supported by qualified staff, and it is a plus if they are seasoned and have some institutional knowledge. In my case, my committee staff director has been with me for 32 years. My committee chief counsel has served for 20 years. I have two other staffers who have worked for the House of Representatives for 18 and 17 years respectively.

This type of seasoned staff not only serves me well, but they well serve the entire T&I Committee Democratic Caucus. In each case, these staffers have had ample opportunity to leave House employment for more financially lucrative jobs in the private sector. Instead, they have opted for continued public service.

So I would hope that an 11 percent cut is not the route we go for committee budgets.

Thank you.