

COMMITTEE ON
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY**
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



Chairman Lamar Smith's Science Committee Funding Hearing Testimony before the House Administration Committee

February 4, 2015

Madam Chair, Ranking Member Brady and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee's budget for the 114th Congress.

All Americans know how to tighten their belts and do more with less. This is something that the Science Committee has done for many years.

In the last Congress we made very efficient use of our authorized funding levels. Only 0.3% of our funding for the last Congress went unspent once all obligations for 2014 are satisfied.

We have done more with less, streamlined our administrative processes and procedures, and reduced the number of staff.

The Committee held 99 hearings and approved 20 bills that subsequently passed on the House floor. Eighteen of these were bipartisan. Six became law.

The Committee plans to be even more active in this Congress to conduct oversight of the Administration and to continue to promote legislation that advances America's interests in science, space, and technology.

A number that may make our budget request look small is \$40 billion. That is the amount of federal government agency budgets that the Committee will reconsider, reprioritize and reauthorize in the next two years.

The purpose of the Science Committee is to encourage the research and development that leads to new innovations and job creation. So the work of the Science Committee focuses on America's future.

The Science Committee's jurisdiction has expanded over the past 57 years to become very broad and diverse.

The Committee has jurisdiction over programs at the following federal agencies: NASA, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, the U.S. Fire Administration, the United States Geological Survey, among others.

To perform effective and efficient oversight and develop legislative policy, we must ensure that staffs on both sides of the aisle are equipped with the technical expertise necessary to handle this diverse jurisdiction.

The Committee is now one of the few committees with signature subpoena power and deposition authority. These tools will enhance our investigative capabilities and help us better guard against waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement within the federal agencies.

Our increase in oversight capabilities consequently leads to an increase in the amount of resources necessary to carry out this important work. The Committee has already added experienced oversight counsel and other senior staff to assist with this effort.

The Science Committee ensures that taxpayers and the American people receive a strong return on their investment. Our request before you for \$5.3 million will allow the Committee to increase productivity, raise Americans' standard of living, and create more jobs.

Thank you for your time and I welcome any questions you may have.

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