

Talking Points
The Honorable Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
March 1, 2023

- Good morning, Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and Members of the Committee; We are in support of the Ways and Means Committee budget submission.
- We were consulted as this budget was developed and had an opportunity for input. Thank you, Chairman Smith.
- I would like to thank Former Chairperson Zoe Lofgren for the increase last Congress. While previously receiving incremental increases, Ways and Means received an increase that put our allotment back to what it was in 2010. We still have a lot of work to do when funding Committees. It is now 2023.
- For the first time in over a decade, the Committee was able to offer competitive salaries and staff increases.
- We also worked with the then-Minority Republicans and signed on to two letters with then-Ranking Member Kevin Brady asking to dip into the Reserve Fund. This was a first for our Committee. Both times we gave the minority half instead of the usual 1/3. We hope that this amicability will continue into this and future Congresses.
- Our workload has always surpassed that for which we have been funded. The current Majority has asked for an increase in order to support field hearings. That was one thing the historic Pandemic taught us. We were able to hold virtual hearings that enabled the Committee to bring in witnesses to participate in our process from every walk of life without having to spend excess funds.
- The Committee on Ways and Means has a long history of splitting the allotment 2/3-1/3. At this time, I am pleased to report that this will remain the practice. This has been the one place where both sides can come to an agreement.