

**Testimony of Chairman Roger Williams
Before the Committee on House Administration
March 1, 2023**

Thank you, Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and members of this committee for giving us the opportunity to testify on the Committee on Small Business's Budget request.

As a small business owner for over 50 years, I am honored to serve as Chairman of the House Committee on Small Business and testify before you as an advocate for Main Street.

For the 118th Congress, the House Committee on Small Business is asking for a \$500,000 increase to the Committee's budget request from the previous Congress.

This requested increase is due to a variety of factors. First, the Committee is seeking to step up its work in oversight of the Biden Administration. While the Committee's legislative jurisdiction is small, our oversight purview touches all agencies that make regulations that effect small businesses. With a more sufficient budget, the Committee will be able to conduct the robust oversight of the Executive Branch that we are planning on doing for the next 2 years.

To do this effectively, the Committee is looking to add multiple counsel positions to the staff roster. Our committee is not alone in our efforts to increase our oversight capacities, and to compete for talent with the larger and committees, we will need a larger budget to fill these roles. Just last week, we sent letters to 25 agencies to ask about the compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act, which is a law meant to insulate small businesses from the most damaging regulations. In the past 2 years, the SBA's non-partisan office of Advocacy has found 27 violations of this law. Federal agencies have not been taking their legal obligations seriously, and small businesses have been the ones who have been negatively impacted and left to fend for themselves. The Committee hopes to find ways to strengthen this law to protect our nations job creators. The more resources and lawyers we can dedicate to this project, the better outcome we think will occur for small businesses.

Compared with other committees, the Committee on Small Business is a very lean operation, In the 117th Congress, the staff ceiling was set at 42 people for the Committee, with two thirds going to the majority, and one third for the minority. However, the staffing ceiling was never close to being reached because the Committee's budget has never being realistic to hit those numbers. Last year, the average number of combined staff for both the majority and minority was 22 people. In order to avoid high burnout rates among staffers and prevent turnover, an increase in the committee's budget would allow us to an adequate amount of people to fulfill our commitment to America's job creators.

In addition to staffing the Committee on Small Business, many our members have expressed interest in holding field hearings in their districts. As the Committee representing Main Street

America, oftentimes the best way to reach these constituencies is by going to them directly. Very few of our members are within driving distance to Washington, so these hearings would entail additional costs.

We need a budget that respects the needs of main street. Our nation's entrepreneurs and innovators deserve a strong and robust advocate fighting on their behalf in Washington. Small businesses are the backbone of our country's economy and communities. Increasing the Committee's budget will help amplify the voice of small business throughout the entirety of the federal government.

Thank you for your time and I sincerely appreciate your consideration to the Committee's budget request.

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