

**Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee  
Business Meeting – Adoption of the Committee Oversight Plan  
February 05, 2013**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

The Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives require each committee to adopt an oversight plan and submit it to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration by February 15th.

Under both Republican and Democratic Chairmen, this committee has a long tradition of conducting strong oversight of the agencies and programs in our jurisdiction. As a former Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I have seen the importance of a rigorous oversight agenda. When we examine programs, ask tough questions, and gather the facts, we build a strong record that allows us to craft the right legislative fixes for the problems we find.

The oversight plan proposed today sets forth some markers on what this committee intends to do on oversight during the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. The plan does not limit in any way the matters that we may decide to look into. Our jurisdiction is broad and touches on some of the most important policy issues and debates facing our country. Accordingly, our oversight agenda is ambitious and focuses on examining health care, environmental, communications, and energy programs and making sure they are running efficiently and responsibly.

Majority committee staff has worked with Minority committee staff on the oversight plan we will consider tomorrow. I appreciate the exchange of ideas between our staffs, and the plan I am presenting reflects almost all of the changes suggested by the Minority. I believe the oversight plan for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress is comprehensive, well-balanced, and will keep our committee at the forefront of Congress' work on key policy debates and legislation.

I urge a yes vote on the oversight plan and look forward to its adoption.