

Statement of Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith  
Committee on House Administration  
Science Committee Budget for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress  
11:30 am on Wednesday, March 6, 2013  
FINAL

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**Chairwoman Miller, 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 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.**

**In this economy all Americans are forced to tighten their belts and do more with less. This is something that the Science Committee has done for many years.**

**The committee's budget has been cut much more than the typical House Committee over the last two years. Since 2010, our budget has been reduced by 16.4%. Please see the chart, which I hope is on your desk.**

**All we ask for today is fairness. Our request for 2013 sets the Science Committee's funding at a level that would treat it like other House Committees. Even at this level, the Committee would operate in 2013 with a smaller budget than it did in 2005.**

**This is simple fairness. As the chart shows, the Science Committee's budget was cut 16.4 percent over the last two years. On average, other Committees were cut only 11.8 percent. So the Science Committee was cut 4.6 percent more than other committees.**

**I am a fiscal conservative, but I also believe in fairness. And I know members of this committee share that commitment.**

**The Science Committee's jurisdiction is broad and diverse, covering federal research and development activities in many different agencies.**

**America's economy is driven by innovation and technological advancements. And the purpose of the Science Committee is to encourage the R&D that leads to new innovations and job creation. This is America's future.**

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

**We are also endeavoring to revitalize the Science Committee and have taken several steps to increase the pace of our activities. We split the Energy and Environment Subcommittee into two separate Subcommittees because each subject deserves more attention. So we now have six subcommittees. The staff is working hard, but to be more effective, we will need to be treated like other committees.**

The Science Committee also will review major programs that require legislative authorization. It has been three years since the Committee reauthorized NASA, the National Science Foundation, STEM education, and Energy R&D programs. We will also be reauthorizing a cybersecurity R&D program for the first time in eleven years.

The Science Committee ensures that taxpayers and the American people receive a strong return on their investments. Again, as a matter of fairness, our request before you for \$6.3 million sets the Science Committee's funding at a level for it to be treated like other House Committees.

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

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