

Ranking Member Eliot L. Engel  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Statement before the Committee on House Administration  
February 11, 2015

Chairman Miller, Ranking Member Brady, Members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me to testify today. I'd also like to thank my Chairman, Ed Royce, for working with me in a bipartisan manner. Ed and I have established an excellent relationship over the past two years, and I look forward to working with him as a friend and partner in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

I've always believed that foreign policy should be as bipartisan as possible, and we've been working together with Members on both sides of the aisle to address an unprecedented number of foreign policy challenges around the world. These include the Iranian nuclear program, the fight against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, Russian aggression in Ukraine, North Korea's development of WMD, and many others.

I think we, and our staffs, can get a lot done for the good of the country and the world.

But our ability to do has been hampered by significant cuts to the Committee budget. Two years ago, our budget was reduced by almost 12 percent – which amounted to \$991,000. That was the highest percentage cut sustained by any Committee. And in the two years before that, we were cut by 5% and 6.4%.

These cuts have made it more difficult to hire and retain experienced Committee staff to help us navigate the wide array of extraordinarily complex national security challenges that we now face.

It has also made it more difficult for the Committee to conduct effective oversight of the State Department, USAID and other agencies under our jurisdiction.

I strongly support the Chairman's request for a modest 2 percent increase in the Committee budget. Taken together with last year's 1 percent increase, this would begin the process of rebuilding the capacity of the Committee to effectively meet our responsibilities.



Thank you again for inviting me to testify, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.