

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

**Statement of Chairman Paul Ryan
Committee on Ways and Means
Testimony before the Committee on House Administration
Regarding the Ways and Means Committee Budget for the 114th Congress
Monday, February 2, 2015**

Madam Chairman, Ranking Member Brady, and members of the committee, I'm here today to present our proposed budget for the Ways and Means Committee in the 114th Congress. And I'm joined by our ranking member, Congressman Levin.

Now, as you consider our request, there are two things I ask you to keep in mind: first, our strong record of accomplishment in the last Congress and second, our ambitious agenda for this Congress.

I think the members and staff of the Ways and Means Committee are second to none. They do incredible work—at an incredible pace—and they do it all while running a tight ship. Our jurisdiction covers more than half of mandatory spending, *all* of revenue, the debt limit, and trade. And these are the very issues that Congress will focus on this year. So it's crucial that we stay at the top of our game. The committee needs to add staff—particularly in the tax, health care, and economics fields—to meet its responsibilities. We just can't do the best job if we don't have the resources.

And if our record shows anything, it's that we deliver. Last Congress, the full committee held 19 hearings and its six subcommittees held 60 hearings. The committee reported 25 bills to the floor. But these numbers don't even begin to capture all the work we do, since we also work on legislation that doesn't go through the committee. Last Congress, for instance, the House passed 66 bills in the committee's jurisdiction.

We also laid the groundwork for major reforms. For example, the committee did yeoman's work in developing a comprehensive tax-reform package. We developed a bipartisan trade promotion bill with the Senate. We devoted considerable time to investigating the abuses by the Internal Revenue Service—investigations that are still ongoing. And we thoroughly analyzed the impact of emergency unemployment benefits on job creation.

And this Congress, we're only going to do more. This committee is going to move out on all fronts to build a healthy economy. We're going to continue our work to make the tax code simpler, fairer, and flatter, so more people can invest and create jobs right here in America. We're going to do all we can to make our current trade negotiations a success, so American trade—and American jobs—can take off. We're going to develop solutions to save and strengthen critical programs like Medicare

and Social Security. And we're going to continue vigorous oversight of the administration.

As for the minority's budget, we're going to continue our tradition of giving the minority one third of the committee's budget and staff. The minority gets to spend their money as they see fit—with no interference from the majority. That is our practice, and we will continue it in the 114th Congress.

I want to thank the chairman and members of this committee for giving me this opportunity. I want to thank our ranking member, Mr. Levin. And I look forward to answering your questions. Thank you.