

**RANKING MEMBER COLLIN C. PETERSON
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
FEBRUARY 15, 2017**

Good afternoon Chairman Harper, Ranking Member Brady, and members of the Committee. I am pleased to be here today with my friend and colleague in support of the Agriculture Committee's budget request.

I look forward to continuing the Agriculture Committee's tradition of working together and getting things done during the 115th Congress as we begin the process to reauthorize legislation which expires this Congress, including the Agricultural Act of 2014, known as the farm bill, and the Pesticide Registration Improvements Act, referred to as PRIA.

As Chairman Conaway has already outlined, it is important that we have the necessary resources to meet our ambitious agenda, conduct proper oversight, and get out into the countryside to actually see and hear what is and what is not working.

The Agriculture Committee has proven to be efficient, fair and prudent with its resources, maybe that has something to do with the Chairman and I both being CPAs, and we are both committed to operating within our budget confines.

That said, under Chairman Conaway's guidance the Committee has addressed duplicative areas with House-funded technology, though I understand the Committee's current data needs exceed what the House will allocate, so I would ask that the Agriculture Committee be granted additional cloud storage space to share documents with other House offices and the Senate for the upcoming farm bill. I look forward to working with him to find and implement additional efficiencies in this area.

Chairman Conaway has been respectful of the rights of the Minority, and I appreciate his efforts to maintain this relationship.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify today and appreciate your consideration of the Agriculture Committee's budget request.