

**Statement before the Committee on House Administration
Funding Request for the Committee on Energy and Commerce
Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair
March 1, 2022**

Thank you Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and members of the Committee.

We are grateful for the opportunity to testify in support of the Energy and Commerce Committee's funding request for the 118th Congress.

Our request reflects the anticipated needs of the Committee's majority and minority to best fulfill our Article 1 responsibilities.

A well-functioning legislative committee is the best way we exert our Article 1 powers on behalf of the people we represent.

I'm proud of E&C's rich history of plowing the hard ground to legislate, deliver results, and help make people's lives better.

Millions of Americans are depending on us to tackle today's greatest challenges, so they have the opportunity for a brighter future.

I am also grateful for the relationship I've built with Ranking Member Pallone.

It's a relationship built on trust. Trust is where the magic happens and foundational to everything we do.

Last Congress, we worked closely to maximize every penny of the Committee's budget so both the majority and minority could meet their needs.

We also worked to improve how the committee operates. For the first time in the history of Congress, we held a bipartisan Committee staff retreat.

While Frank and I disagree on many things, we always agree to be good stewards of the Committee's resources to better Energy and Commerce, the House, and deliver for taxpayers.

Our committee has hit the ground running. By March 31st, Energy and Commerce will have completed 31 committee activities – including hearings in the field and Rayburn, markups, and roundtables. The Committee has managed five rule bills on the floor, including the first open rule bill of this Congress which considered 78 amendments in real time on the floor.

In addition to supporting this fast pace to produce quality legislation, our request would give additional resources needed to increase our oversight capacity, improve member involvement, modernize how we operate, and retain high-quality staff.

There are several highlights of our funding request I'd like to share today.

First, boosting our work to conduct oversight and investigations of this administration and woke corporations under the leadership of Representative Griffith, Chairman of our Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

In addition to more staff, I have identified software to scrutinize more than \$500 billion in new spending within our jurisdiction to help expose any waste, fraud, and abuse.

I'm committed to organizing more field hearings and site visits. There's no substitute for members going outside of Washington, DC and being on the ground to hear directly from those impacted by the laws we pass. Last month, we held two field hearings in Texas which had participation from 20 members from both parties. Our ability to significantly increase these activities is simply a matter of resources.

I'm thrilled Chairman Steil established a subcommittee focused on modernization efforts. I've requested funds to work with the CAO to build software which will drastically improve our productivity and effectiveness — and hopefully become software that will help all committees. For example, the ability to create dynamic letter tracking or automate notices would significantly improve our oversight and legislative operations.

Finally, the quick and dramatic increases in the salary cap for House employees last Congress significantly changed the employee marketplace. Starting salaries for new staff in the 118th Congress is averaging 6-12% higher than budgeted. Our budget request reflects these higher salary expectations for current staff and future hires to make sure we attract and retain the best.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of our funding request. We look forward to answering any questions you may have about the important work that lies ahead.