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Congress of the United States

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March 1, 2011

Budget Request for the 112th Congress to the Committee on House Administration

Opening Statement of Chairman Darrell Issa

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady: I would like to thank you for allowing me to testify today on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee's budget for the 112th Congress.

Along with Ranking Member Cummings, I supported H. Res. 22, reducing our spending level to 95 percent of last Congress. In fact, under this arrangement the Oversight and Government Reform Committee's budget will be two percent below our 2008 level (110th Congress).

The House's substantial investment in the Oversight Committee has the potential to return hundreds of billions of dollars in waste, fraud, and abuse to the taxpayers this Congress. Recovery and Accountability Transparency Board Chairman Earl Devaney estimates 7% of all federal spending is actually lost to waste, fraud, and abuse on an annual basis. In the President's proposed budget, that amounts to $228 billion taxpayer dollars we will lose to our broken system. We must do better than that.

In his letter to our incoming majority, Leader Cantor said that "We must create a culture that prioritizes oversight" noting that substantive oversight and reform "will not only result in better legislation but also resonate with the public."

The House's investment in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will lead to cost-savings and real reform for the American taxpayer.

I thank you for your time, and I look forward to taking your questions.