Chairman Dave Camp
Committee on Ways and Means
Testimony before the Committee on House Administration regarding the Ways and Means Committee Budget for the 112th Congress

Chairman Lungren, Ranking Member Brady and Members of the Committee, I am here today to present the proposed budget for the Committee on Ways and Means for the 112th Congress and am joined by our Ranking Member and my friend from Michigan, Sandy Levin.

In accordance with our Committee rules, the Members of the Ways and Means Committee have already met and approved the budget before you. Before we get into the details of the budget and any questions you may have, I would like to make the following points.

First and foremost, this budget reflects our nation's current financial problems and the sacrifices many Americans have been forced to make at as the unemployment rate has remained stuck at or above nine percent for nearly the last two years. Just as these families have had to cut back, we think it is appropriate for the Committee to cutback. As such, we proposed cutting the Committee's budget as compared to the last Congress by a total of five percent – a savings of over $1 million for American taxpayers.

Second, I would note that we have held flat the number of staff allotted to the Committee and have reduced the funding allocated toward staff salaries.

Third, as you may know, we have a long tradition at Ways and Means of the Minority receiving a full one-third of the entire Committee budget and staff. In addition to receiving their allocation, the Minority gets to spend their monies as they see fit without interference from the Majority. That was the case in the past and will continue to be the case for the 112th Congress.

I thank the Chairman and the Members of the Committee for this opportunity to present our budget request and justification. I look forward to any questions you may have.

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Sander M. Levin, Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
Before the Committee on House Administration
March 2, 2011

- We are in support of the Ways and Means Committee budget request. It was approved by our Committee by unanimous consent on February 28, 2011.

- We were consulted as this budget was being developed and had an opportunity for input.

- The request that is being submitted would reduce what was allotted to us in the last Congress by 5%.

- As you can see the large part of our funding is dedicated to salaries with the rest going toward equipment, supplies and materials.

- I am pleased to report that the Democrats will have full control over our 1/3 share of the Committee's budget.