STATEMENT

BEFORE THE HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEEE

Representative HOWARD L. BERMAN
March 2, 2011

First, my thanks to Chairman Lungren and Ranking Member Brady, and also to your staff for the assistance provided to the minority staff on the Foreign Affairs Committee. I also want to thank my Chairman, Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, for her efforts and that of her Staff Director, Dr. Yleem Poblete, in helping to shape a budget request that is fair.

Mr. Chairman while switching from majority to minority is always difficult, it has been especially challenging as a result of the decision to reduce the budget from last year's numbers and straight line the budget into next year. Chairman Ros-Lehtinen has been very helpful this year in providing assistance that our staff needed to make the transition, and I greatly appreciate her generosity. As was the case with the minority in previous Congresses, we also anticipate coordinating well with the chairman on receiving one-third of all non-personnel expenses in each expense category, such as travel, communications, and equipment upgrades. I know that the chairman intends to hold a number of field hearings which I hope to be able to attend.

I look forward to working with her in a bipartisan manner on a wide range of issues in the 112th Congress, and I am pleased to have been able to cosponsor the funding resolution before your Committee.