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MEETING TO ADOPT THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 113TH CONGRESS

Thursday, February 14, 2013

House of Representatives,  
Committee on the Judiciary,  
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 9:38 a.m., in Room 2141, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Bob Goodlatte [chairman of the committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Goodlatte, Smith, Chabot, Bachus, Forbes, King, Franks, Gohmert, Poe, Marino, Amodei, Labrador, Farenthold, Holding, Collins, Rothfus, Scott, Watt, DelBene, and Garcia.

Staff Present: Shelley Husband, Staff Director/General Counsel; Branden Ritchie, Deputy Chief of Staff/Chief Counsel; Allison Halataei, Parliamentarian/General Counsel; Kelsey

Deterding, Clerk; Perry Apelbaum, Minority Staff Director; and Danielle Brown, Minority Parliamentarian.

Chairman Goodlatte. The meeting will come to order. Good morning, a quorum is present, and pursuant to notice, our only order of business is the adoption of the committee's oversight plan for the 113th Congress.

Each Member has a copy in front of them on the dais. The clerk will report.

The Clerk. Committee on the Judiciary, Oversight Plan for the 113th Congress.

[The oversight plan follows:]

\*\*\*\*\* INSERT 1-1 \*\*\*\*\*

Chairman Goodlatte. Without objection, the oversight plan will be considered as read, and I now recognized myself for a brief opening statement.

The Rules of the House of Representatives require each standing committee to adopt an oversight plan at the beginning of each Congress. Today we meet to adopt the Judiciary Committee's oversight plan for the 113th Congress.

Oversight over the executive and judicial branches is a core function of Congress and this committee. It allows us to play our part in the system of checks and balances set up in the Constitution. Robust oversight gives us a way to ensure that the Federal Government is operating efficiently and appropriately, adhering to the laws passed by Congress, and doing so without any waste, fraud, or abuse.

The plan before us today sets forth our oversight goals with regard to the Federal agencies and components of agencies within our jurisdiction. We will be taking a close look at the programs and activities of the Department of Justice, the Federal Judiciary, the Patent and Trademark Office, the Copyright Office, and certain components of the Department of Homeland Security, among other areas. We will examine instances where current law may be overly burdensome as well as situations where it may be inadequate.

The oversight plan is not binding and does not preclude us from considering additional issues and matters as they arise

during the remainder of the Congress. The plan was developed in consultation with Ranking Member Conyers, and I look forward to working with members on both sides of the aisle to carry out oversight activities that are of importance to the members of this panel as well as the American people.

And at this time, it is my pleasure to recognize the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Scott, for an opening statement.

Mr. Scott. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the absence of Representative Conyers, our ranking member, I ask unanimous consent that his statement be entered into the record.

Chairman Goodlatte. Without objection, so ordered.

[The statement of Mr. Conyers follows:]

\*\*\*\*\* INSERT 1-2 \*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Scott. I would just like to read one paragraph out of the statement where he says, "I want to thank Chairman Goodlatte for his cooperation in developing this document. Our staff worked closely together to reach consensus on this language and you addressed virtually all of our concerns. The courtesy you have extended us strikes a helpful tone and gives the committee a good model for collaboration on other projects as we begin our work in earnest."

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman Goodlatte. I thank the gentleman. Are there any amendments to the committee oversight plan?

There being none, the question is on adopting the oversight plan of the Committee on the Judiciary for the 113th Congress.

All in favor, say aye.

Opposed, no.

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. The oversight plan is adopted.

This concludes our business for today, and I thank all of our members for attending this thorough meeting. The meeting is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 9:41 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]