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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Select Committee on Benghazi

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February 5, 2015

The Honorable Candice Miller, Chairman
The Honorable Robert A. Brady, Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Brady:

Over the next two weeks, the Committee on House Administration will be holding public hearings on budget requests submitted by the committees of the House, as prescribed by House Rule X, clause 6(a). However, the Select Committee on Benghazi operates outside these rules and is not funded through this regular, transparent process. Instead, the Select Committee operates with no limit on its budget or timeframe.

Standing House committees are funded through a single, biennial “primary expense resolution,” which authorizes specific budgets for each committee. Unlike those standing committees, the Select Committee’s budget is unlimited and is set by its establishing resolution, which states:

There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives such sums as may be necessary for the expenses of the Select Committee. Such payments shall be made on vouchers signed by the chair of the Select Committee and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.¹

On January 6, 2015, the House reauthorized the Select Committee on Benghazi as part of the House’s must-pass Rules package, without providing any information about a proposed budget for the Select Committee and without setting any limitations on the timeframe of its work.

In 2014, the Select Committee spent nearly \$1.8 million, even though the Committee was only operational for part of the year. During that time, the Committee did not adopt any Committee rules, did not conduct one single bipartisan interview of a witness, and did not adopt an investigative plan.

¹ H.R. 567, § 5(c), 113th Cong. (2014) adopted by H.R. 5, 114th Cong.

The Honorable Candice Miller, Chairman
The Honorable Robert A. Brady, Ranking Member
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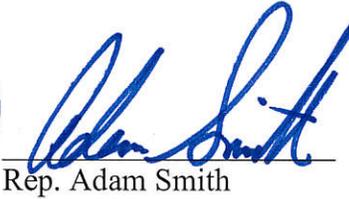
At its current rate, the Select Committee will cost the taxpayers more than \$3 million in 2015—or about \$8,000 per day. This is more than several other House committees with significant legislative and oversight jurisdictions. It also dwarfs the amount House Republicans allocated to investigate Hurricane Katrina under President Bush.

After already spending more than eight months and nearly \$1.8 million on the Select Committee on Benghazi, there should now be an opportunity to have a public debate about the amount of additional time and money this Congress plans to spend on its eighth investigation into the attacks in Benghazi. Since House Republicans reauthorized the Select Committee with yet another blank check, we ask that you include the Select Committee in your public hearings to discuss—in a transparent way—the expected costs to the American public and how Congress intends to pay for those costs.

Sincerely,



Rep. Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member



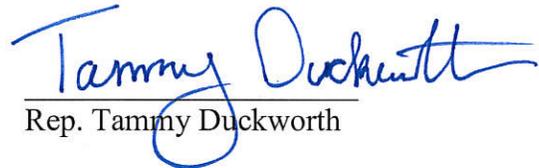
Rep. Adam Smith



Rep. Adam B. Schiff



Rep. Linda T. Sánchez



Rep. Tammy Duckworth

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman