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4 MEETING TO ADOPT THE OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS.

5 Thursday, February 12, 2015

6 House of Representatives

7 Committee on the Judiciary

8 Washington, D.C.

9       The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:07 a.m.,  
10 in Room 2141, Rayburn Office Building, Hon. Bob Goodlatte  
11 [chairman of the committee] presiding.

12       Present: Representatives Goodlatte, Smith, Issa, King,  
13 Franks, Gohmert, Jordan, Marino, Labrador, Farenthold, Buck,  
14 Ratcliffe, Bishop, Conyers, and Nadler.

15       Staff present: Shelley Husband, Majority Staff  
16 Director; Branden Ritchie, Deputy Majority Staff Director and  
17 Chief Counsel; Allison Halataei, Majority Parliamentarian and

18 General Counsel; Stephanie Gadbois, Majority Counsel; Kelsey  
19 Deterding, Majority Clerk; Perry Apelbaum, Minority Staff  
20 Director; Danielle Brown, Minority Parliamentarian; Aaron  
21 Hiller, Minority Counsel; and Veronica Elgin, Minority Clerk.  
22

23 Chairman Goodlatte. Good morning. The Judiciary  
24 Committee will come to order. And without objection, the  
25 chair is authorized to declare a recess at any time.

26 Pursuant to notice, our only item on the agenda is the  
27 adoption of the oversight plan for the 114th Congress, a copy  
28 of which each of you have. The clerk will report the  
29 oversight plan.

30 Ms. Deterding. Committee on the Judiciary oversight  
31 plan for the 114th Congress --

32 Chairman Goodlatte. Without objection, the oversight  
33 plan will be considered as read.

34 [The information follows:]

35

36 Chairman Goodlatte. And I will begin by recognizing  
37 myself and then the ranking member for an opening statement.

38 The rules of the House of Representatives require each  
39 standing committee to adopt an oversight plan at the  
40 beginning of each Congress. Today we meet to adopt the  
41 Judiciary Committee's oversight plan for the 114th Congress.  
42 Oversight of the executive branch is a core function of  
43 Congress and this committee. It allows us to play our part  
44 in the system of checks and balances set up in the  
45 Constitution. Robust oversight gives us a way to ensure that  
46 the Federal government is operating efficiently and  
47 appropriately, adhering to the laws passed by Congress, and  
48 doing so without waste, fraud, or abuse.

49 The plan before us today sets forth our oversight goals  
50 with regard to the Federal agencies and components of  
51 agencies within our jurisdiction. The committee will  
52 continue its efforts to take a closer look at the programs  
53 and activities of the Department of Justice, the Patent and  
54 Trademark Office, the Copyright Office, and certain  
55 components of the Department of Homeland Security, among  
56 other areas.

57 Some initiatives that have been added to the committee's

58 oversight plan for the 114th Congress include a review of the  
59 implementation of the Administration's deferred action  
60 programs and other executive actions announced on November  
61 20, 2014, and an examination of the proposed Federal  
62 Communication Commission regulations regarding net  
63 neutrality. In addition, we will examine instances where  
64 current law may be overly burdensome, as well as situations  
65 where it may be inadequate.

66 The oversight plan is not binding and does not preclude  
67 us from considering additional issues and matters as they  
68 arise during the remainder of the Congress. The plan was  
69 developed in consultation with Ranking Member Conyers, and I  
70 look forward to working with members on both sides of the  
71 aisle to carry oversight activities that are of importance to  
72 members of this panel as well as the American people.

73 And it is now my pleasure to recognize the gentleman  
74 from Michigan.

75 Mr. Conyers. Thank you, Chairman Goodlatte. Members,  
76 the oversight plan we hope to adopt today will guide this  
77 committee as we conduct our business in the 114th Congress.  
78 I want to thank our chairman for his cooperation in  
79 developing this document. Our staffs worked closely together

80 on the project, and you fully addressed each of our concerns.  
81 This courtesy strikes a helpful tone and gives the committee  
82 a good model for collaboration on other projects as we begin  
83 our work in earnest. I look forward to turning to more  
84 substantive matters, and urge my colleagues to support the  
85 adoption of this plan. And I yield back.

86 Chairman Goodlatte. Thank you, Mr. Conyers. Are there  
87 any amendments?

88 [No response.]

89 Chairman Goodlatte. There being none, the question is  
90 on adopting the oversight plan of the Committee on the  
91 Judiciary for the 114th Congress.

92 All in favor, respond by saying aye.

93 Those opposed, no.

94 The ayes have it, and the oversight plan is adopted.

95 And I thank all the members for participating. I hope  
96 that all of our future markups will be of similar duration.

97 [Laughter.]

98 Chairman Goodlatte. And the committee is adjourned.

99 Mr. Conyers. Great, thank you.

100 Chairman Goodlatte. Thank you, sir.

101 Mr. Conyers. Thank you very much.

102        [Whereupon, at 10:11 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]