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**Committee on Rules**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
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**OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN DAVID DREIER**  
**HEARING ON PRESIDENT BUSH'S**  
**"FREEDOM TO MANAGE" INITIATIVE**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2001**

The purpose of today's hearing is to examine the President's "Freedom to Manage" initiative, which was transmitted to Congress on October 17, 2001. Specifically, the hearing will seek to determine the scope of the initiative and the kind of authority that Congress should grant to the President for any kind of statutory changes he may propose.

I want to commend the President for his commitment to management reform. I know many of us here in the Congress agree that there is a great need to reform the management of federal agencies. As the President notes in his "Management Agenda," Congress, the Executive Branch, and the media are generally more interested in launching new programs than in reviewing existing ones. Over time, the continuing creation of duplicative programs with overlapping missions and competing agendas has resulted in a federal government that is, in many cases, inefficient and wasteful. It is thus appropriate that we engage in this effort to reform and rethink how the government operates.

We must be cautious, however, to proceed with this effort in a deliberative manner. Part of our purpose today is to examine whether the mechanism for achieving reform that the President has proposed is the most appropriate. We need to fully analyze the scope and form of authority that is appropriate for Congress to grant to the President for "management reforms."

To that end, we have circulated a Discussion Draft of a bill, which Mr. Sessions has been working on. This draft, while based on the President's legislative proposal, is an attempt to create legislation that is more in line with Congressional obligations and responsibilities. We hope to use this hearing to get input on both the President's proposal and the Discussion Draft, in order to determine the appropriate mechanism by which meaningful management reforms can be achieved.