

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

1 Whereas, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is investigating and conducting
2 oversight over the White House Office of Political Strategy and Outreach, and has authority to
3 investigate such matters under House Rules X and XI.

4 Whereas, David M. Simas currently serves as Director of the Office of Political Strategy &
5 Outreach and Assistant to the President.

6 Whereas, on July 11, 2014, the Committee served Mr. Simas a duly authorized subpoena
7 compelling him to appear at a hearing on July 16, 2014.

8 Whereas, on July 15, 2014, White House Counsel W. Neil Eggleston (“White House Counsel”)
9 informed the Committee that it is the White House’s view that Mr. Simas is immune from being
10 compelled to testify before Congress on matters relating to his official duties, and noted that Mr.
11 Simas would not appear at the hearing.

12 Whereas, Mr. Simas failed to appear at the hearing on July 16, 2014, despite being compelled to
13 do so.

14 Whereas, in a July 18, 2014 letter, the Committee informed White House Counsel, that his
15 contention that Mr. Simas need not appear or testify before the Committee, despite having been
16 compelled to do so by a lawfully issued subpoena, is contrary to well-established law and
17 amounts to contumacious conduct.

1 Whereas, in the July 18, 2014 letter, the Committee also informed White House Counsel that in
2 an effort to resolve this matter, it would reconvene the hearing on July 25, 2014, and stated the
3 Committee expected Mr. Simas to appear at the hearing pursuant to the subpoena, which
4 remained in effect.

5 Whereas, Mr. Simas failed to appear at the reconvened session of the hearing on July 25, 2014.

6 Whereas, Mr. Simas’s failure to appear at the hearing, either on July 16 or July 25, 2014, denied
7 Committee Members and the American people an opportunity to hear from the head of an office
8 that has—under several previous Administrations—misused government resources for political
9 purposes.

10 Resolved, That the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform rejects the claim made by
11 the White House that Mr. Simas is immune from congressional compulsion to testify on matters
12 relating to his official duties.

