

Comment from Senior Fellow Peter Strauss on *User Fees*
October 27, 2023

It is striking to me that the draft encourages use of fees for "supplementing general revenue," and nowhere counsels Congress to consider the desirability of keeping agencies under budget control as one element appropriate for its consideration. Major critiques of the Fed and the CFPB, as I recall, decry their independence from the budget process. This is not only because of possibilities of bias or self-serving agency behaviors, mentioned considerations, but also reflects the Constitution's anticipation that government bodies will require annual appropriations for their operations -- preserving the power of the purse. I wonder why, as it seems to me on a first reading of the draft, this consideration nowhere appears.

I regard [footnote 6] as inappropriate and unfortunate. The issues are significant and the recommendation really is written as if they were not.

Peter