

**February 1, 2010**

WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio issued the following statement on President Obama's fiscal year 2011 budget, which was released this morning.

“Overall, I was pleased with President Obama’s 10-year budget outline. Years of fiscal irresponsibility under the Bush Administration have created record deficits. I am happy that President Obama is committed to eliminating the deficit as quickly as possible. I look forward to working with him on this goal, so we do not pass our debt on to our children and grandchildren.

I was particularly pleased with the proposed tax reforms that will make the tax system more fair and progressive. I am glad he does not want to continue the irresponsible Bush tax cuts for millionaires and has proposed the closure of tax loop holes for multinational corporations which ship billions of dollars over-seas every year.

I was also glad about the proposed Bipartisan Fiscal Commission, which will be charged with identifying spending cuts and revenue increases that will move us back toward a balanced budget. This shows a real commitment to addressing the current budgetary issues.

I applaud the 7.5 percent increase in education funding. Of those funds, Oregon will receive \$704.8 million. Education funding is one of the best investments we can make. A strong commitment to education will make the next generation of Americans more competitive in the

global economy.

The budget also adds \$69 billion to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service budgets. This will allow these agencies to address the backlog of forest management projects, to improve forest health, and foster desperately needed job creation in hard-hit timber dependent communities in Southwest Oregon.

There are also several important parts of the budget that target burdensome waste. For example, it ends NASA's wasteful and unnecessary Constellation program, to send man back to the moon. The budget also enacts a pay freeze on all senior political appointees throughout the Federal Government and continues the policy of no bonuses for all political appointees. These people should not be getting a bonus or a raise when working families are struggling to make ends meet.

However, several aspects of the budget are troubling. I was particularly disappointed by the additional \$33 billion for the war in Afghanistan to fund the 30,000 additional troops. I do not agree with the flawed plan to escalate the war the war in Afghanistan, especially when that money could be used to create jobs here at home. I have spent the last two years writing a surface transportation reauthorization bill which will create or sustain 12.5 million jobs. This would be a better use of these funds.

Finally, I was disappointed that President Obama excluded the Pentagon from the proposed spending freeze on discretionary spending. Billions of dollars are wasted every year on projects at the Pentagon that don't work and our troops don't need. These gold plated defense contracts do nothing to make our troops or our nation safer. In order to make a full commitment to rooting out wasteful spending, President Obama must also scour the DOD budget.

There are elements of this budget I agree with and elements I disagree with. It lays out many good strategies to reduce the massive deficits courtesy of the Bush Administration and get our nation back onto the path of fiscal responsibility.”

For more information on how the President's budget would affect Oregon, go to:  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget\\_factsheet\\_or/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget_factsheet_or/)