

*Feb. 12 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2010*

## Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Amendments

*February 12, 2010*

*Dear Madam Speaker:*

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Budget amendments for the Departments of Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, the Treasury, and Veterans Affairs, as well as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. These amendments will increase by \$155 mil-

lion the overall discretionary budget authority in my FY 2011 Budget.

These amendments are necessary to reflect correctly policies assumed in the FY 2011 Budget. The details of these amendments are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

## Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments

*February 12, 2010*

*Dear Madam Speaker:*

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed amendments to Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 proposals in my FY 2011 Budget.

Included is an amendment for the Department of Homeland Security, Disaster Relief, for the continued response and recovery efforts associated with prior large events, such as Hurricane Katrina and the Midwest Floods. The proposed total for FY 2010 in my FY 2011 Budget would increase by \$1.5 billion as a result of this amendment.

Also included are amendments to general provisions that would provide authorization and funding for FY 2010 to implement the settlement of a case involving the management of individual Indian trust accounts related to Indian lands and to settle claims of prior discrimination brought by black farmers against the Department of Agriculture.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

## The President's Weekly Address

*February 13, 2010*

All across America, people work hard to meet their responsibilities. You do your job, take care of your family, pay your bills. Sometimes, particularly in tough times like these, you have to make hard choices about where to spend and where to save. That's what being responsible means. It's a bedrock value of our country. And that ought to be a value that our Government lives up to as well.

Yet over the past decade, this hasn't always been the case. Ten years ago, we had a big

budget surplus with projected surpluses far into the future. Ten years later, those surpluses are gone. In fact, when I first walked through the door, the Government's budget deficit stood at \$1.3 trillion, with the budget gap over the next decade projected to be 8 trillion.

Now, partly, the recession is to blame. With millions of people out of work and millions of families facing hardship, folks are paying less in taxes while seeking more services, like unemployment benefits. Rising health care costs

are also to blame. Each year, more and more tax dollars are devoted to Medicare and Medicaid.

But what also has made these large deficits possible was the end of a commonsense rule called pay as you go. It's pretty simple. It says to Congress, you have to pay as you go. You can't spend a dollar unless you cut a dollar elsewhere. This is how a responsible family or business manages a budget. This is how a responsible government manages a budget as well.

It was this rule that helped lead to balanced budgets in the 1990s by making clear that we could not increase entitlement spending or cut taxes simply by borrowing more money. And it was the abandonment of this rule that allowed the previous administration and previous Congresses to pass massive tax cuts for the wealthy and create an expensive new drug program without paying for any of it. Now, in a perfect world, Congress would not have needed a law to act responsibly, to remember that every dollar spent would come from taxpayers today or our children tomorrow.

But this isn't a perfect world. This is Washington. And while in theory, there is bipartisan agreement on moving forward on balanced budgets, in practice, this responsibility for the future is often overwhelmed by the politics of the moment. It falls prey to the pressures of special interest groups, to the pull of local concerns, and to a reality familiar to every single American: the fact that it's a lot easier to spend a dollar than save one.

That's why this rule is necessary. And that's why I'm pleased that Congress fulfilled my request to restore it. Last night I signed the pay-as-you-go rule into law. Now Congress will have to pay for what it spends, just like everybody else.

But that's not all we must do. Even as we make critical investments to create jobs today and lay a foundation for growth tomorrow—by cutting taxes for small businesses or investing in education or promoting clean energy and modernizing our roads and railways—we have to

continue to go through the budget line by line, looking for ways to save. We have to cut where we can to afford what we need.

This year, I've proposed another \$20 billion in budget cuts. And I've also called for a freeze in Government spending for 3 years. It won't affect benefits through Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security. And it will not affect national security, including benefits for veterans. But it will affect the rest of the budget.

Finally, I've proposed a bipartisan fiscal commission to provide recommendations for long-term deficit reduction. Because in the end, solving our fiscal challenge, so many years in the making, will take both parties coming together, putting politics aside, and making some hard choices about what we need to spend and what we don't. It will not happen any other way. Unfortunately, this proposal, which received the support of a bipartisan majority in the Senate, was recently blocked. So I will be creating this commission by Executive order.

After a decade of profligacy, the American people are tired of politicians who talk the talk but don't walk the walk when it comes to fiscal responsibility. It's easy to get up in front of the cameras and rant against exploding deficits. What's hard is actually getting deficits under control. But that's what we must do. Like families across the country, we have to take responsibility for every dollar we spend. And with the return of pay as you go, as well as other steps we've begun to take, that is exactly what we are doing.

Thanks.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 1:30 p.m. on February 12 in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House for broadcast on February 13. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 12, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on February 13. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Statement on Serbian National Day *February 15, 2010*

On behalf of the American people, I send my congratulations and best wishes to all those who are observing Serbian National Day. The United States and Serbia are strong partners, and here in America, those of Serbian descent

enrich our national diversity and identity. I look forward to a continued friendship and strengthened partnership between our two countries.

## Statement on Senator Evan Bayh's Decision Not To Seek Reelection *February 15, 2010*

For more than two decades, Evan Bayh has devoted his career and his life to serving his fellow Hoosiers. During that time, he has fought tirelessly for Indiana's working families, reaching across the aisle on issues ranging from job creation and economic growth to fiscal responsibility and national security. I look

forward to continuing to work with him on these critical challenges throughout the rest of the year.

Michelle and I thank Senator Bayh for his leadership and service and wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.

## Remarks to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Lanham, Maryland *February 16, 2010*

Thank you, everybody. Thank you. Please have a seat. Have a seat. Good morning, everybody. Before I begin, let me just acknowledge some of the people who are standing behind me here. First of all, two people who have been working really hard to make this day happen: Secretary Steven Chu—my Energy Secretary, Steven Chu, and my White House adviser on everything having to do with energy, Carol Browner.

I want to acknowledge the outstanding Governor of Maryland, Martin O'Malley, as well as his Lieutenant Governor, Anthony Brown. We've got Mark Ayers from the building trades and Billy Hite from the UA Plumbers and Pipefitters—give them a big round of applause. Gregory Jaczko, who's—the nuclear energy commission—is here. Where is he? Ed Hill, president of the IBEW International; and I want to thank Chuck Graham and everybody here at Local 26 for their great hospitality.

Thank you for the warm welcome. Thanks for showing me around. I was just mentioning that I got a chance to pull the first fire alarm

since I was in junior high. [Laughter] And I didn't get in trouble for it.

This is an extraordinarily impressive facility, where workers are instructed on everything from the installation of sophisticated energy hardware and software to the basics of current and resistance. And we need to look no further than the workers and apprentices who are standing behind me to see the future that's possible when it comes to clean energy.

It's a future in which skilled laborers are helping us lead in burgeoning industries. It's a future in which renewable electricity is fueling plug-in hybrid cars and energy-efficient homes and businesses. It's a future in which we're exporting homegrown energy technology instead of importing foreign oil. And it's a future in which our economy is powered not by what we borrow and spend, but what we invent and what we build.

That's the bright future that lies ahead for America. And it's one of—it's a future that my administration is striving to achieve each and every day. We've already made the largest investment in clean energy in history as part of