

co. It is only by coordinating our efforts that we can really defeat this epidemic that has become overwhelming to all of our countries. And whatever we can do from the supply side, as you said, or the demand side, will be of great significance for the safety and security of our people.

Other issues, like you said, related to clean energy, we're working on that in the Dominican Republic with wind energy and with the potential production of ethanol in our country. We'll move on also with trade. We have a free trade agreement between both of our countries, of which we have not benefited fully because of the global financial crisis and how it has affected trade. But we can look into the future hopefully that we will increase our trade activities and

more investment coming from the U.S. into the Dominican Republic.

So once again, Mr. President, I thank you for your friendship, I thank you for your vision, for your leadership, and for your commitment to the region and the Dominican Republic.

President Obama. Thank you very much. Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to David "Big Papi" Americo Ortiz, designated hitter, Boston Red Sox. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Amendments *July 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 for the Department of Commerce.

Included are amendments that would support efforts to reduce backlogs in processing patent applications—by spurring innovation and reforming U.S. Patent and Trademark Office operations to make them more effective—and assure the continuation of efforts to administer and oversee grants awarded under the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program.

The amounts requested for these amendments would be fully offset by a proposed cancellation of FY 2010 unobligated balances from within the Department of Commerce's Census Bureau. The proposed budget authority totals for FY 2010 in my FY 2011 Budget would not be affected by these amendments.

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

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

Remarks on the Nomination of Jacob J. "Jack" Lew To Be Director of the Office of Management and Budget *July 13, 2010*

Good afternoon. Before I begin, I just want to note a breakthrough that we've had on our efforts to pass the most comprehensive reform of Wall Street since the Great Depression. Three Republican Senators have put politics and partisanship aside to support this reform, and I'm grateful for their decision, as well as all the Democrats who've worked so hard to make

this reform a reality, particularly Chairman Dodd and Chairman Barney Frank.

What members of both parties realize is that we can't allow a financial crisis like this one that we just went through to happen again. This reform will prevent that from happening. It will prevent a financial crisis like this from happening again by protecting consumers against the

unfair practices of credit card companies and mortgage lenders. It will ensure that taxpayers are never again on the hook for Wall Street's mistakes. And it will end an era of irresponsibility that led to the loss of 8 million jobs and trillions of dollars of wealth. This reform is good for families, it's good for businesses, it's good for the entire economy, and I urge the Senate to act quickly so that I can sign it into law next week.

Now, as we finish our work on Wall Street reform, we're also mindful that we've got significant work to do when it comes to reforming our Government and reducing our deficit. As part of that work, today I am proud to announce the nomination of Jack Lew to be our Nation's next Director of Office of Management and Budget, or OMB.

Before telling you a little bit about Jack, I just want to say a few words about the man that he will be replacing at the helm of OMB, and that's Mr. Peter Orszag. A few weeks ago, Peter told me that after more than a year and a half of tireless, around-the-clock service in what is one of the toughest jobs around, Peter was ready to move on to a job that offers a little more sanity and fewer line items.

Putting a budget together for the entire Federal Government is an enormously difficult task, no matter what the state of the economy, but Peter's job was even tougher. When we walked through the doors of the White House, we not only faced the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, we also faced a \$1.3 trillion deficit, a deficit that was caused both by the recession and nearly a decade of not paying for key policies and programs.

In light of these challenges, Peter's accomplishments as Director of OMB are even more impressive. He was instrumental in designing and helping us pass an economic plan that prevented a second depression, a plan that is slowly but surely moving us in the right direction again. Thanks to his innovative ideas and gritty determination, we passed a health insurance reform plan that is not only paid for but will significantly lower the cost of health care as well as our deficit over the next several decades. In fact, a recent report by independent experts say

this reform will cut the deficit even more than the Congressional Budget Office first estimated.

Peter has also helped us single out more than a hundred programs for elimination that have outlived their purposes and made hard decisions that will save tens of billions of dollars. And he helped draft a budget for next year that freezes all discretionary Government spending outside of national security for 3 years, something that was never enacted in the prior administration. It's a budget that would reduce the deficit by more than \$1 trillion over the next decade, which is more than any other budget in a decade. And I expect that freeze to become a reality next year.

Now, Peter also shares my view that the long-running debate between big government and small government misses the point; it isn't relevant to today's challenges. The real debate is about how we make government smarter, more effective, and more efficient in the 21st century. It's easy for any institution to get in the habit of doing things the way they've always been done. We in Government can't afford that habit, not only because it wastes taxpayer dollars, but because it erodes people's belief that their Government can actually work for them.

Over the last year and a half, we've been able to employ new technology to make Government more responsive and customer friendly, the same way that so many businesses have used technology to make better products and provide better services.

As a result of these efforts, today we're creating a single electronic medical record for our men and women in uniform that will follow them from the day they enlist until the day they are laid to rest. We're cutting down the time that it takes to get a patent approved by cutting out unnecessary paperwork and modernizing the process. We're working to give people the chance to go online and book an appointment at the Social Security office or check the status of their citizenship application. We're cutting waste by getting rid of Federal office space that hasn't been used in years. We're closing the IT gap in the Federal Government and have created mobile apps that provide nutrition informa-

tion for your favorite foods or wait times at the airport. And the examples go on and on.

Now, inertia is a powerful thing. Constituencies grow around every agency and department with a vested interest in doing things the same way. And that's why we have to keep on challenging every aspect of Government to rethink its core mission, to make sure we're pursuing that mission as effectively and efficiently as possible, and to ask if that mission is better achieved by partnering with the civic, faith, and private sector communities.

This is a mission that requires some special leadership. And Jack Lew is somebody who has proven himself already equal to this extraordinary task.

You know, if there was a hall of fame for Budget Directors, then Jack Lew surely would have earned a place for his service in that role under President Clinton, when he helped balance the Federal budget after years of deficits. When Jack left that post at the end of the Clinton administration, he handed the next administration a record \$236 billion budget surplus. The day I took office, 8 years later, America faced a record \$1.3 trillion deficit.

Jack's challenge over the next few years is to use his extraordinary skill and experience to cut down that deficit and put our Nation back on a fiscally responsible path. And I have the utmost faith in his ability to achieve this goal as a central member of our economic team.

Jack is the only Budget Director in history to preside over a budget surplus for three consecutive years. When Jack was Deputy Director at OMB, he was part of the team that reached a bipartisan agreement to balance the budget for

the first time in decades. He was a principal domestic policy adviser to Tip O'Neill and worked with him on the bipartisan agreement to reform Social Security in the 1980s. He was executive vice president at New York University, where he oversaw budget and finances. And for the past year and a half, he's been successful in overseeing the State Department's extremely complex and challenging budget as Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources. I was actually worried that Hillary would not let him go. I had to trade a number of number-one draft picks—[laughter]—to get Jack back at OMB.

But I am grateful that Hillary agreed to have Jack leave, and I'm even more thrilled that Jack agreed to take on this challenge at this moment. Jack is going to be an outstanding OMB Director. We know it because he's been one before. At a time when so many families are tightening their belts, he's going to make sure that the Government continues to tighten its own. He's going to do this while making Government more efficient, more responsive to the people it serves.

And, Jack, I am looking forward to working with you on your critical mission. Thank you so much. And thanks to Jack's family, who has been putting up with him in multiple, very difficult jobs over and over again. We appreciate his service to our country and we appreciate yours as well.

Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House.

Remarks Announcing the National HIV/AIDS Strategy July 13, 2010

The President. Hello, everybody! Well, good evening, everybody. This is a pretty feisty group here. [Laughter]

Audience member. We love you, President!

The President. Love you back. Thank you. Well, it is a privilege to speak with all of you. Welcome to the White House.

Audience members. Thank you.

The President. Let me begin by welcoming the Cabinet Secretaries who are here. I know I saw at least one of them, Kathleen Sebelius, our outstanding Secretary of Health and Human Services. I want to thank all the Members of Congress who are present and all the distinguished guests that are here—that includes all of you. [Laughter]