

**Statement on House of Representatives Action on Legislation To Reduce Federal Spending**

*November 18, 2005*

I applaud the Republican Members of the House who passed a significant savings package that will restrain spending and keep us on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009. We will continue to fund our priorities in a fiscally responsible way and ensure that taxpayer money is spent wisely or not spent at all. I urge the House and Senate to reach agreement promptly on a spending-reduction package that I can sign into law this year.

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**Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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**November 11**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Avoca, PA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Anthony Blackwell, Sr. He then traveled to Tobyhanna, PA.

In the afternoon, at Tobyhanna Army Depot, the President met with family members of U.S. military personnel killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Later, he returned to Washington, DC. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia.

**November 12**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

**November 14**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Anchorage, AK, where, upon ar-

ival in the afternoon, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Peter Henry.

In the afternoon, at Elmendorf Air Force Base, the President met with family members of U.S. military personnel killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Kyoto, Japan, arriving Tuesday evening.

**November 16**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Kinkakuji Temple of the Golden Pavilion, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a cultural event.

Later in the morning, at the Kyoto State Guest House, the President met with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with Prime Minister Koizumi. Later, they traveled to Busan, South Korea, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his intention to nominate Marc L. Kesselman to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peter N. Kirsanow to be a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Claudia A. McMurray to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel Meron to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The President announced his intention to appoint Noel Michael McKinnell as a member of the Commission of Fine Arts.

The President declared a major disaster in Kansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on October 1-2.

**November 17**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Gyeongju, South Korea, where, at the Hotel Hyundai, he met with President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with President Roh and his