

BUDGET AUTHORITY TOTAL—WITH  
COMPARISONS

The total new budget (obligational) authority for fiscal year 2011 provided in the bill, with comparisons to the fiscal year 2010 amount and the 2011 budget estimates follow: (in thousands of dollars)

New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2010 .....	\$67,929,457
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2011 .....	68,836,693
Bill, fiscal year 2011 .....	66,323,173
Bill compared with: .....	
New budget (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2010 .....	-1,606,284
Budget estimates of new (obligational) authority, fiscal year 2011 .....	-2,529,520

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING  
SENATORS

JUDD GREGG

Mr. DURBIN. I want to join my colleagues in wishing our friend, Senator JUDD GREGG, the best of luck as he prepares for his new life beyond the U.S. Senate.

I don't think it is any exaggeration to say that, without the leadership and dogged insistence of JUDD GREGG and KENT CONRAD, there would have been no Presidential Deficit Commission.

As a member of that commission, I want to say to Senator GREGG: I will get you back for that one.

In all seriousness, serving on the Deficit Commission was not an easy assignment. But I believe the commission's work, and the way we went about our work, shows that Democrats and Republicans can still reason together and act together for the good of our nation. I thank Senator GREGG for helping to remind us of that important truth.

You might remember a few years back when Senator GREGG won about \$850,000 in a Powerball payoff. A bunch of us on our side of the aisle tried to convince him that he ought to do what all big lottery winners do: quit his job. He said no—there was more he wanted to do in the Senate.

JUDD and I served together in the House and the Senate and, as I said, on the Deficit Commission. We're one of the Odd Couples of Capitol Hill. He's Felix and I'm Oscar.

We haven't agreed on a whole lot. But we have been allies on some big, important fights. JUDD was an indispensable leader in the effort to finally give the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco. His work on that bill will save thousands and thousands of lives in America and around the world and I am proud to have been his partner on it.

I understand that JUDD GREGG is the only person in New Hampshire history ever elected Senator, Congressman, Governor and Councilor. Little-known fact: I think he was also the model for the Old Man in the Mountain.

When JUDD claimed his Powerball winnings, he told reporters, "Even Sen-

ators get lucky sometime." I am lucky to have worked with JUDD GREGG in both the House and the Senate for almost 15 years. We have had some spirited differences—always will. But I respect him as an independent-minded conservative, a tough negotiator and a man who believes in public service.

I wish JUDD, Kathy and their family the very best in the next chapters of their lives.

JUDD GREGG

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, through three terms in this chamber, Senator JUDD GREGG has been a consistent, principled voice for responsible stewardship of the taxpayers' hard-earned money. Though he and I have not always agreed on the roles and responsibilities of government, that has not diminished my admiration for his principled stand on fiscal responsibility, a stand that has at times brought him into conflict with members from both parties.

Senator GREGG has been willing to cross party lines on important issues throughout his tenure in the Senate. At times that has been the result of his belief in limiting deficits, as when he opposed the creation of the Medicare drug benefit in 2003 without identifying ways to pay for it. But he also supported last year the nomination of Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court. He has voted to allow Food and Drug Administration regulation of tobacco. And he has voted to give U.S. workers a higher minimum wage.

Still, Senator GREGG will rightly be remembered primarily for his advocacy of prudent spending. He consistently has pressed for a detailed, bipartisan effort to address the Nation's troubling fiscal situation. The bill he worked on with Senator CONRAD ultimately became the model for the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. While the success of the commission is still unclear, it already is clear that Senator GREGG's efforts have helped move the discussion forward.

I congratulate Senator GREGG on his distinguished service, and I wish him the best of luck in wherever his new endeavors take him.

GEORGE VOINOVICH

Mr. President, aside from a few college football Saturdays each fall, Michigan and Ohio share much. Both States are known for our manufacturing strength. And both are known for the central role the Great Lakes play in the daily lives of our citizens. And over his 12 years in this chamber, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH has demonstrated that these shared interests are far more important than party labels.

I have had the pleasure of working alongside Senator VOINOVICH on these and other important issues. Since 2007, he has been my co-chair on the Great Lakes Task Force, and he has brought just as much dedication and commitment to that work as you would expect from an Ohioan, lover of our Lakes, and expert angler. Recently, the great-

est issue facing the Lakes has been the threat of invasive species, and especially Asian carp, which could devastate Great Lakes ecosystems if they make their way up the Mississippi River valley. His strong advocacy for protecting the Lakes helped yield an important victory just last month with passage of the Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act, which added the big-head carp to the list of species prohibited from import into the United States.

Senator VOINOVICH was instrumental in helping ensure passage of the Great Lakes Compact, which protects the waters of the Great Lakes from diversion. He helped secure more than \$200 million in funding for cleanup of contaminated sediments under the Great Lakes Legacy Act. And he has been my valued partner in introducing the Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act, which would provide important tools and funding to address a wide range of environmental concerns on the Lakes. Senator VOINOVICH also recognizes the integral role the Lakes play in our States' economies, and so has been at the forefront of efforts to promote shipping and commerce on the Lakes.

In addition to his impressive legacy on Great Lakes issues, Senator VOINOVICH has been a thoughtful and effective advocate for our States' manufacturers. He and I co-chair the Senate Auto Caucus, and in this role, he has done much to ensure that the domestic auto industry, the backbone of American manufacturing, remains strong. He has been a powerful voice in the Senate for ensuring that U.S. manufacturers, including our auto industry, are able to fully participate in overseas markets, just as foreign companies are given access to our markets; his opposition to unfair aspects of a proposed free trade agreement with South Korea is just one recent example of that advocacy.

It is no surprise that in his work on these issues, Senator VOINOVICH has been motivated by the interests of his State and our nation, and not the desire to score partisan points. He has throughout his time in the Senate—and before, when serving as a mayor and governor—demonstrated the ability to find areas of bipartisan agreement, even when he faced political pressure to walk the party line. To cite just a recent example: He was one of a handful of Republicans to cross party lines and vote for the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act, which provided important new tools to help small businesses grow and provide the jobs we need to get our economy going.

On these and other issues, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Senator VOINOVICH. I will miss him when we return in January. He has been a powerful and principled advocate for his State. The people of my State have benefitted greatly from his work on issues of common interest between Michigan and Ohio. And I have benefitted greatly from his wisdom, friendship and teamwork.

SAM BROWNBACK

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my colleague, Senator SAM BROWNBACK, who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this term. Senator BROWNBACK has served the people of Kansas for 16 years in the Congress, serving one term in the House of Representatives before being elected to the Senate in 1996. SAM is leaving the Senate to serve the people of Kansas as their Governor.

As rural, Midwestern States, Kansas and North Dakota have a lot in common, sharing many of the same challenges and opportunities. Agriculture is a key component of both States' economies. In fact, North Dakota and Kansas often vie for the position of top wheat producer. Senator BROWNBACK knows agriculture well, having been raised on a farm near Parker, KS, and serving as a State leader of Future Farmers of America in high school. Early in his career, SAM served as Kansas Secretary of Agriculture. These experiences prepared him for his work in the Senate, where he championed producing more energy from biofuels and opening overseas markets to American beef—two issues that are just as important to farmers and ranchers in North Dakota as they are to those in Kansas.

I worked closely with SAM on a program that helps ensure that individuals who live in rural areas have access to doctors. The Conrad State 30 program allows foreign doctors educated in the United States on J-1 visas to obtain a waiver of the requirement to return to their home country for 2 years if they agree to practice for 3 years in a medically underserved area of the country. This program has been vital for individuals in rural States like Kansas and North Dakota. Without it, residents of rural areas would have to travel long distances to visit physicians. I am proud to have Senator BROWNBACK's support of legislation to expand this program and make it permanent.

Senator BROWNBACK's concern for his fellowman does not stop at America's borders. Although he does not serve on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, SAM has been very involved in international affairs, and has dedicated himself to causes that protect the most vulnerable. He was instrumental in passing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, worked to bring peace to Darfur, and, most recently, fought to end the trade in conflict minerals from the Congo.

SAM is one of the most genuine Members of the Senate. He is willing to listen to opposing views and engage in respectful debate. This great body will miss Senator BROWNBACK's collegiality.

I thank Senator BROWNBACK for his service in the Senate and wish him the best as he continues to represent the people of Kansas as their Governor.

GEORGE VOINOVICH

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the service of a

fellow Senator, and friend, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH. He has spent over four decades as a public servant and has been a tireless advocate for the State of Ohio.

Senator VOINOVICH started his career in public service in 1967 when he served as a Member of the Ohio House of Representatives. He then went on to serve as a county commissioner, the mayor of Cleveland, and as the Governor of Ohio. In 1998, he was elected to the U.S. Senate.

Having worked extensively in local government, Senator VOINOVICH understood first-hand the importance of Federal investment in infrastructure before he ever arrived in Washington.

Senator VOINOVICH has served with me on the Environment and Public Works Committee since the 106th Congress, 1999. Throughout his career, he has been a great advocate for transportation. As the ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee during the 111th Congress, he helped us ensure ongoing investment in Federal highway, transit and highway safety programs and the jobs that those investments create.

In hearings, Senator VOINOVICH has frequently highlighted the importance of investing in infrastructure at all levels of government and often called on his colleagues to support passage of a new long-term surface transportation authorization at increased funding levels.

He and his staff have contributed to the efforts of our committee to draft a new surface transportation authorization. Senator VOINOVICH's passion for these issues was influential among his colleagues on the Environment and Public Works Committee, and will help guide us as we move forward on new transportation legislation.

During his service on the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator VOINOVICH has also been an advocate for investing in America's water resources and protecting water quality. I was also pleased to join him as a co-sponsor of the Clean Coastal Health and Public Health Act, which helps to ensure our Nation's beaches are safe for swimming and recreation.

I am also grateful for his partnership in supporting investment in America's ports, which are important economic drivers in both Ohio and California, and are vital to the national economy.

Senator VOINOVICH's service on the Environment and Public Works Committee will have a lasting impact both in the State of Ohio, and across the Nation. I want to extend my best wishes to Senator VOINOVICH and his family in his retirement, and express my gratitude for his many years of hard work and dedication to public service.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JAMES E. THODE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to SFC James E. Thode, who gave the ul-

timate sacrifice for his country. On December 2, 2010, he died of wounds suffered after an improvised explosive device detonated on a roadside in Sabari District, Khowst Province, Afghanistan. He was 45 years old.

Sergeant First Class Thode served with the Utah National Guard, 118th Engineer (Sapper) Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, in Salt Lake City. His unit's mission was vitally important, as it provided route-clearance support to coalition forces. Identifying and clearing IEDs was part of their dangerous job.

Sergeant First Class Thode called Farmington, NM, his home and grew up in Tucson, AZ. However, boundaries are blurred in the Four Corners area and soldiers are drawn from the neighboring states. I am proud, and, indeed, Utah is proud to call Sergeant Thode one of our own. He was one of our finest.

This was to be Sergeant First Class Thode's third deployment overseas. In 1991, he served during the first gulf war, although he did not see combat. He never shied away from duty.

Like so many of the fine men and women serving in the Armed Forces today, Thode felt it was his duty to serve. He exemplified this attitude by not only serving his country abroad, but by serving on the Farmington Police Department for the last 14 years. In that time he worked as a training officer, a member of the SWAT team. He was well-respected. He was a great friend. He was a great leader. He had the qualities we would want in a police officer and protector of a community.

His decision to serve our country came at an early age. He was inspired by his uncle who served in the military. As a young boy, he learned how to shoot a BB gun and later his father took him to the shooting range and taught him how to handle a rifle. He joined the military in 1984 and had served long enough to retire from military service by the time he went on his third deployment, this time to Afghanistan. His father told him he could have retired, but he insisted that the young men and women he served with needed someone to take them to war and help keep things together.

He was a father figure to many of his fellow soldiers. He was the glue that held people together. A warrior that led by example.

My thoughts and prayers go to his loving family. He leaves behind his devoted wife Carlotta; their 18-year-old daughter Ashley; their 8-year-old son Tommy; his mother Evelyn; father Ernest; and other family and friends. With his ultimate sacrifice, they are sacrificing, too. God bless them.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, in the more than 9 years that our military has been fighting in Afghanistan, thousands of brave men and women have volunteered their service to our country. They have sacrificed time with their families, travelled to foreign lands, and put their