

SENATOR NELSON COMMENTS ON OBAMA BUDGET PLAN

Written by Andrew Mihm
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February 26, 2009 - Nebraska's Senator Ben Nelson issued this statement today in response to President Obama's fiscal 2010 budget proposal:

"President Obama is to be commended for sending Congress an honest budget that doesn't play hide and seek with the government's revenues and expenses. This isn't the "Fudget" we've seen in the past, with gimmicks that left out such expenses for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Alternative Minimum Tax and spending on natural disasters.

"I support the president's effort to cut in half the monumental federal deficit-most of which he inherited. A lot of the red ink in his budget is due to the fact that America is in its worst economic crisis in decades.

"While President Obama inherited much of the deficit he's battling, his budget has eye-popping numbers, and its size and scope concern me. In particular, I'm not sure raising taxes is the best way to go in these times. I also question counting revenue for cap and trade policies that haven't been implemented and could have a negative impact on our economy.

"I also have long opposed eliminating private student lending, which is crucial to providing educational opportunities for the middle class, and which preserves Nebraska jobs instead of transferring them to government agencies in Washington, D.C. We will need to work through these issues as the president seeks to implement his budget.

"While I do not agree with all of the president's proposals, I do believe that we need to get the deficit under control, reduce government spending and make sure taxpayers are getting a better bang for their buck. I look forward to seeing additional details in the weeks ahead and working toward those goals.

"We need to a new era of fiscal discipline in Washington, D.C., and an honest budget and honest debate over how we get there is where we need to start."