



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

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Chairman Byrd Statement on Opposing Confirmation of Former Congressman Jim Nussle as Director of OMB

Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D.W.Va., Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, issued the following statement today on his vote against confirming Congressman Jim Nussle as Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Senator Byrd's statement is below

During his tenure as Chairman of the House Budget Committee, former Congressman Nussle not only embraced, but helped to enact, the woefully misguided and disastrous budget policies of this Administration, which have resulted in massive deficits, including the highest three on record. Those dangerous policies have resulted in the loss of hundreds of billions of dollars from the Social Security trust funds, and draconian cuts in domestic investments that have left the infrastructure of our nation to deteriorate, and agencies, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), unprepared to protect the American people.

I have repeatedly warned against this Administration's budget and spending policies. I have watched the disastrous results that they have brought about. I am not about to endorse a continuation of that kind of record today. I am heartened by Mr. Nussle's pledge to work in a cooperative way with the Congress and the Appropriations Committees. However, I do not foresee any real change in policy in the offing, and so I must oppose this nomination.

U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D.W.Va.,
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

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