



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Appropriations Press Office, (202) 224-3904

STATEMENT OF SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD (D-W.Va.)

ON THE VETO THREAT OF APPROPRIATIONS BILLS BY THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION

Washington, DC --- Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today issued the following statement in response to a veto threat from the White House concerning an appropriations package about which the Administration has yet to see details.

It is extraordinary that the President would request an 11 percent increase for the Department of Defense, a 12 percent increase for foreign aid, and \$195 billion of emergency funding for the war, while asserting that a 4.7 percent increase for domestic programs is fiscally irresponsible.

The Administration claims that such spending is wasteful and threatens job growth. I refuse to accept the fanciful notion that it is wasteful to provide health care to our veterans, fight increasing levels of violent crime, repair our bridges, or educate our children.

The White House should cease its political posturing and work with the Congress to complete the appropriations process.

It is time to govern, Mr. President.