



# U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

*PRESS RELEASE*

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## **White House Threatens to Veto Investments in America's Economic and Security Future**

WASHINGTON, D.C... Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., released the following comments after receiving a letter from OMB Director Rob Portman threatening vetoes of the Fiscal 2008 appropriations bills.

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I certainly appreciate hearing from the OMB Director, but his word is not the last word. Congress will work in a bipartisan way to craft legislation that meets the pressing demands of this country -- health care for our veterans, our poor, and our children; stronger protections against terrorist attack; infrastructure investments that expand jobs and create new economic opportunities across this country. We also will ensure funding for our troops, but we will not provide this White House with a blank check for the occupation in Iraq.

This Administration has zero credibility when it comes to fiscal responsibility. The federal budget has been thrown completely out of whack by the Bush Administration. Before the Bush team took office, we had a balanced federal budget with record surpluses. But the Bush Administration has turned that fiscal sanity on its head. All we have seen from this White House are red ink and record deficits.

The White House should step back from this petty game of brinksmanship that it is playing. The American people are tired of these games and want the government to work together in their best interests.

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