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### **Chairman Byrd Responds to Bush on Appropriations Bills, Fiscal Responsibility**

Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D.W.Va., Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, issued the following statement in response to President Bush's remarks earlier today on the subject of congressional appropriations legislation and fiscal responsibility.

Senator Byrd's statement is below

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It is truly remarkable that President Bush presumes to lecture Democrats in Congress - or anyone for that matter - on the subject of fiscal restraint. Abetted by the previous Republican Congress, President Bush turned record surpluses into the largest deficits in American history. Under this President's watch, the national debt has ballooned by over \$3 trillion. The President's failed policy in Iraq is now costing American taxpayers \$10 billion per month. Put simply, President Bush has zero credibility on the subject of fiscal responsibility.

Congress is committed to making wise investments in the future of our nation. The Senate Appropriations Committee has, on a bipartisan basis, reported 11 bills that make critical investments in securing our borders, ports and transportation systems, fighting crime, providing medical care for veterans, and building highways and bridges. I urge President Bush to cease his transparent political posturing and work with the Congress to move our country forward.

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

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