

108<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session: No. 3 PART A

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## INFORMED BUDGETEER

### VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

Pursuant to Section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act, authorizing committees are to submit views and estimates letters to the Senate Budget Committee within six weeks after the President's budget release. These letters provide budget insight for matters within each committee's jurisdiction. This year the views and estimates were to be submitted by February 20.

#### Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Chairman Cochran and Ranking Member Harkin wrote a joint letter highlighting the Agriculture Committee's concerns for FY05.

The Agriculture Department continues to work to implement the farm bill and believes that rewriting it at this point would impair functioning and slow the implementation process.

The Committee requests that the FY05 Budget Resolution provide additional mandatory funding for CRP and WRP technical assistance so that these conservation programs can be implemented as was envisioned by the FSRIA.

The Chairman requests that, at a minimum, the FY05 Budget Resolution provide additional mandatory funding so that existing child nutrition programs can be extended without terminating the benefits to current program beneficiaries.

Regarding the aggregate discretionary spending level in the FY05 Budget Resolution, the Committee asks that the Budget Committee keep in mind rural economic development, funding for agriculture research and biomass and renewable energy research, and food supply safety.

#### Committee on Armed Services

In his letter to the Budget Committee, Chairman Warner urges full funding of the President's \$420.7 billion defense budget request, calling on Congress to support this 7- percent increase over the 2004 level. "The price of freedom is high," the letter states, "but it is our only option...security and stability are the conditions that allow prosperity." Warner requests an increase in mandatory funding for the Defense Department to provide a monthly Montgomery GI Bill for the Selected Reserves (MGIB-SR) benefit of \$400, an estimated cost of \$120 million in mandatory spending for FY05 and approximately \$1.3 billion for FY05-14.

In a separate letter to the Budget Committee, Ranking Member Levin notes that the President's defense budget request of \$420.7 billion is a "reasonable estimate" for FY05. However, the Ranking Member expresses concern that the \$65 billion in supplemental funding Congress provided during FY04 for the war efforts will not be sufficient (noting the Administration's exclusion of a supplemental in the President's budget), and requests an additional \$30 billion in budget authority for FY05 to cover up to six months of incremental war costs.

#### Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Chairman Shelby sets forth the majority's views and estimates for programs under the jurisdiction of his committee, beginning with public transportation. With recent Senate passage of the highway bill, S. 1072, the Chairman supports to continue the split sharing of gas tax revenue for funding under highways and transit programs, and

strongly urges that public transportation funding would be maintained at levels consistent with S. 1072.

The Chairman would like to work with the Budget Committee on regulatory reform for Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs); regulatory relief legislation that will likely increase costs to the Federal Reserve; and federal deposit insurance system reform legislation.

This year the Committee plans to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program that expires June 30, 2004. The Committee urges full funding of the President's requests for the Securities and Exchange Commission at \$893 million, for the International Trade Administration with an \$11 million increase, the International Trade Commission with a \$4 million increase, and the Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) with a \$10 million increase.

Chairman Shelby states that oversight will be conducted on a number of programs including money laundering, USA Patriot Act, and Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

The minority did not submit its views.

#### Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Chairman Domenici provided majority views in a letter to the Budget Committee.

Regarding the Energy Policy Act, the Chairman notes that the FY04 Budget Resolution did not accommodate the \$31 billion cost of the conference report on H.R. 6, so the Chairman has introduced a compromise bill S. 2095, totaling approximately \$14 billion. The Chairman requests that the FY05 Resolution assume \$450 million in FY04, \$520 million for FY05, \$3 billion over five years, and \$5 billion over ten years to accommodate a likely conference outcome on a comprehensive energy bill.

The Chairman is concerned that if the Administration's legislative proposal for the Yucca Mountain project is not enacted in time to affect the FY05 appropriations process, it could adversely impact the ability to achieve the requested funding. The Chairman urges the FY05 Budget Resolution to include a reserve fund to allow the allocation of funding to the committee that reports legislation to implement the Administration's proposal not to exceed \$749 million from the Nuclear Waste Fund in FY05 as discretionary spending.

The Chairman believes that CBO should reconsider the manner in which it scores ESPCs so that this program can be extended at the earliest possible date.

The Chairman urges the Budget Committee to include language in the FY05 Budget Resolution that will allow additional appropriations to cover emergency fire borrowing if it becomes needed.

The minority did not submit its views.

#### Committee on Environment and Public Works

Writing jointly, Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Jeffords strongly support an increase in highway spending to reflect growing needs of the Federal-Aid Highways Program. The Committee would also like to see the FY05 Budget Resolution contain separate outlay categories for highways and mass transit.

The Committee strongly urges that the FY05 Budget Resolution increase funding for the Clean Water Revolving Fund, which faces a \$492 million cut in the President's proposal.

The Committee expresses its support for the President's proposal of \$40 billion for the Department of Homeland Security. Specifically, the Committee supports the President's proposal to include \$3.6 billion for first responder preparedness grants.

Both Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Jeffords express particular concern over the Army Corp of Engineers funding, in addition to provisions within the President's proposal that suggest canceling all unobligated balances at the end of FY04 for 43 ongoing and congressionally authorized projects.

The Committee is pleased with the \$7.17 billion in new obligation authority towards the Public Building Service in the President's FY05 budget.

### **Committee on Finance**

In a joint letter, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Baucus recommend processing the Jumpstart Our Business Strength (JOBS) Act under regular order and not under reconciliation instructions. The Committee requests sufficient funding for IRS enforcement enhancement and procedure, and asks that the FY05 budget reflect the priorities identified under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act under TANF. During this year, the Finance Committee intends to address legislative proposals regarding tax compliance and simplification, energy tax incentives, expiring tax provisions and permanent tax relief, the highway trust fund, Higher Education reauthorization tax title, and unemployment insurance.

The Committee requests full funding of the President's proposals for Social Security's administrative operations for FY05 and recommends that any discretionary caps included in the budget resolution reflect a potential adjustment of \$561 million for the SSA to conduct disability reviews.

The letter also requests that any unspent S-CHIP funds be retained and redistributed among states and that the Qualified Individuals program under Medicare be extended an additional year. The Committee supports the President's proposal of \$71 billion for policies to help cover the uninsured and asks that the New Freedom Initiative program be included in the FY05 Budget Resolution with a specific allocation. The letter also requests a specific allocation for the Family Opportunity Act.

### **Committee on Foreign Relations**

The Committee on Foreign Relations has nearly full jurisdiction over Function 150—International Affairs. In his letter to the Budget Committee, Chairman Lugar stresses full funding of the President's

request for a 7-percent increase in both the defense and foreign policy budgets. "For the first time in many years, the executive branch's request for the 150 account reflects a strategic priority placed on foreign policy activities that is commensurate with the priority assigned to military strength," the letter states. The Chairman encourages continued investments in the Administration's Middle East Partnership Initiative, the doubling of the National Endowment for Democracy, and support for the President's Capital Security Cost Sharing Program. Within this program, the Chairman requests an additional \$84 million for construction of new embassies in FY05.

The Chairman fully supports the President's proposed increases in the HIV/AIDS and Millennium Challenge programs and asks that the Budget Committee's calculations accommodate future expansion of both programs.

The letter also notes a request from Secretary of State Powell for a net increase of \$86 million for ongoing operations and personnel expansion within the State Department.

The minority did not submit its views.

### **Committee on Governmental Affairs**

In the Committee's joint letter, Chair Collins and Ranking Member Lieberman request \$1.862 billion in FY05 for the Deepwater project allowing the Coast Guard to ensure replacement of its aging fleet within the next 10 years.

In a separate letter, Chair Collins requests that the FY05 Budget Resolution allow for the enactment of comprehensive postal reform legislation. The letter recommends the FY04 level of \$1.7 billion for the State Homeland Security Grant program. The Chair supports the President's proposal of \$102.5 million in new funding for the Department of Homeland Security's personnel management, \$864 million in new funding for DHS's infrastructure protection and cybersecurity, and funding for the Department's information technology systems.

The Chair supports the Administration's request of \$278 million for the Office of Personnel Management and urges the FY05 Budget Resolution to provide for pay parity between civilian federal employees and military personnel.

### **Part B**

Views and Estimates are summarized in Part B of the Bulletin for the following Committees:

HELP  
Intelligence  
Rules and Administration  
Small Business