

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA) issued the following statement in response to the State of the Union address delivered by President Obama this evening:

“Tonight’s State of the Union address acknowledged many of the serious problems that the United States is facing. I am encouraged that President Obama has called for a return to fiscal responsibility, and that he honored the work of our brave men and women in uniform that are working to protect us across the globe, particularly in the Middle East. The troops deserve our utmost support and I will continue to work to ensure that they have all the resources necessary for victory in their missions. It is clear that significant challenges await us at home and abroad as a nation and I look forward to working with the President to meet them head on.

“I am, however, concerned that the first year of his Presidency does not provide much evidence that he or Congressional Democrats will be willing to make the tough decisions required to get our fiscal house in order. Although a call for a spending freeze is a good start, we need to do much more. We need to immediately alter the course he set last year that will add fourteen trillion dollars to our deficit over the next decade and will surpass our debt from the entire history of our country prior to his Administration. The President called for a spending freeze but unfortunately it will not take effect until next year and leaves eighty-three percent of the federal budget exempt from this effort. After a year when most federal agencies saw budget increases by twenty-two percent, our skyrocketing debt cannot wait for relief - we need to work across party lines right now to eliminate the waste and abuse that occurs in so many government programs, including Medicare. We need to push forward with a tax system that takes the burden off of middle class families and small businesses and spur investment and job creation.

“All across America, people are hurting, they’re asking, ‘where are the jobs?’ The American people are well aware that we can’t spend and borrow our way back to job creation and economic growth. They have told us time and again that they don’t want more government, they want less. They want less government spending, less government in their health care, and less government in their lives. I hope that the President’s remarks tonight indicate a new page in his Administration’s record of fiscal responsibility. It is essential for America’s future that he live up to his promises.”

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