

February 26, 2009 - Rep. Slaughter Applauds President Obama's Budget Proposal

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Proposal

Budget Makes High-Speed Rail and the Great Lakes Priorities

Washington, D.C. - Congresswoman Louise
M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today
applauded the budget President Obama submitted to Congress for fiscal year
2010.

"Today President
Obama has laid the groundwork to make our economy strong for years to come," said Rep.
Slaughter. "As we make hard choices
to bring our deficit down, we'll also make critical investments in our economic

future. We'll work to end our dependence on foreign oil, create millions of clean energy jobs, bring down the high cost of health care, and give American children a world-class education so they can compete in the 21st century economy."

Not only does President Obama's budget make key investments in clean energy, health care, and education, it also restores balance to our tax system and cuts taxes for the middle class by making permanent an \$800 tax cut for 95 percent of America's working families. Furthermore, President Obama has pledged to cut the deficit he inherited by at least half by the end of his first term and return to honest budgeting by providing a projected cost for overseas contingency operations, such as wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The President's budget also includes investments in high-speed rail and the Great Lakes, key priorities for Western New York.

"I am especially pleased that this budget includes funding for high-speed rail, which we are moving forward on very quickly right here in Upstate New York," Slaughter added. "Bringing high-speed rail to Upstate New York will not only address our lack of transportation options, but also create good-paying jobs throughout the region."

"What's more, President Obama's budget shows a deep commitment to the Great Lakes. By fully funding initiatives to restore and protect the Great Lakes we will not only protect one of nation's most prized natural resources but ensure that they continue to benefit Western New York for generations to come," Slaughter concluded.

Rep. Slaughter
applauded the inclusion of the following provisions in President Obama's
budget:

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Initiating a New Federal Commitment to High-Speed Rail: As Chair of the Upstate New York Caucus, Rep. Slaughter is leading efforts to bring high-speed rail to our region. To provide Americans a 21st Century transportation system, the Administration has proposed a five-year \$5 billion high-speed rail state grant program. Building on the \$8 billion down payment in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the President's proposal marks a new Federal commitment to give the traveling public a practical and environmentally sustainable alternative to flying or driving. Directed by the States, this investment will lead to the creation of several high-speed rail corridors across the country linking regional population centers.

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Accelerating the Restoration of the Great Lakes: Rep. Slaughter has made restoring the Great Lakes a priority as Co-Chair of the Great Lakes Task Force. President Obama's budget includes a \$475 million inter-agency initiative to address regional issues that affect the Great Lakes, such as invasive species, non-point source pollution, and contaminated sediment. This initiative will use outcome-oriented performance goals and measures to target the most significant problems and track progress in addressing them. EPA and its Federal partners will coordinate state, tribal, local, and industry actions to protect, maintain, and restore the Great Lakes.

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in Clean Water: The 2010 Budget requests \$3.9 billion for the Clean Water State revolving Fund and the Drinking Water State revolving Fund (SrFs). With this historic increase, the program will fund over 1,000 Clean Water and nearly 700 Drinking Water projects annually in the Nation's States, Tribes, and territories, based on average project costs. The SrF programs provide grants to states to capitalize their own revolving funds, which finance wastewater and drinking water treatment systems.

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Increasing funding for Veterans Affairs (VA) by \$25 billion over the next five years: Enhances outreach and services related to mental health care and cognitive injuries, including PTSD and TBI, with a focus on access for veterans in rural areas. Additionally, the bill expands eligibility for Veterans' health care to over 500,000 veterans by 2013.

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Adding 50,000 additional police officers nationwide: The President's budget would add an additional 50,000 police officers to our nation's streets through the Community Oriented Policing Services Program (COPS).

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Manufacturing Extension Partnership will receive \$125 million to enhance the competitiveness of the Nation's manufacturers by facilitating the adoption of more efficient manufacturing processes.

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