



Flurry of responses to Obama’s State of the Union speech, with both cheers & concerns

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Washington, Jan. 27 – Among the immediate responses to President Obama’s State of the Union speech Wednesday evening:

Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-SD)

- “Tonight, the President rightly highlighted the critical need to get spending under control and reduce the national debt, and the importance of meeting the needs of the private sector to achieve sustainable economic growth. These are our obligations to the current generation, and the next.
- “I support the President’s proposals to freeze spending but we must do more, including identifying ways to cut government overspending, passing legislation requiring Congress to spend within its means and establishing an independent, bipartisan commission to address our national debt.
- “As our country’s economy continues to recover, bipartisan tax relief proposals for the middle class will help South Dakota families struggling to make ends meet. As the Congress and the President begin crafting the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, I hope we will see true progress in restoring fiscal discipline, getting our private sector going and meeting the needs of middle class families.”

Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND)

- “I was encouraged to hear President Obama focus in his address on jumpstarting America’s economy and taking on one of the greatest challenges facing the nation today, the skyrocketing deficit and debt.
- “The President’s announcement that he will create by executive order a bipartisan fiscal commission to tackle the nation’s long-term budget crisis sends a clear signal that the Obama administration is committed to addressing this problem.
- “I was heartened by the strong bipartisan majority vote in the Senate on Tuesday for the statutory bipartisan fiscal task force bill I proposed with my Republican colleague, Senator Judd Gregg. While our bill did not receive the 60 votes needed for passage, the majority of the Senate has now indicated it is prepared to take on

- this challenge in a bipartisan way. There is a clear momentum building toward a serious effort to put our nation back on a sound fiscal course.
- “In light of Tuesday’s vote, the President’s executive order, if coupled with firm commitments from Congressional leaders to bring the commission’s report to a vote, provides a realistic alternative that members on both sides of the aisle should support. Any commission will only be successful if both Democrats and Republicans work together in good faith toward a common goal. Both parties must be committed to the success of this effort.
 - “This President came into office under the worst imaginable set of circumstances. He inherited a \$1.3 trillion deficit, a collapsing financial system, and two wars. We now face a perfect storm of exploding debt, brought on by rising health costs, a retiring baby boom generation, and an outdated and inefficient revenue system. Now is the time to act.”

Senator John McCain (R-AZ)

- “Tonight, during his State of the Union speech, President Obama laid out his vision for our nation’s future. As you know, the President and I have differing views on the direction we should take the country, and I stand by my conservative values of reduced spending, low taxes, and a strong national defense.
- “During his first year in office, President Obama and Congressional Democrats have amassed a \$12.4 trillion deficit that is growing each day. While the President advocates increased federal spending, I have actively advocated tax cuts, reduced spending and earmark reform to get our economy back on track.
- “The non-discretionary spending freeze announced by the President is a start, but what he also needs to do is promise to veto bills laden with pork barrel spending and begin creating jobs for the thousands of out-of-work Americans.
- “We currently face a national unemployment rate of over 10%, and it has only grown during President Obama’s time in office. As we have seen, trillion-dollar, big-government stimulus packages are not the answer for creating jobs. To stimulate our economy for job growth, we need payroll tax cuts, tax incentives for small businesses and an assurance that Democrats will not raise taxes.
- “As a United States Senator, I fight each and every day for these and other conservative values. I won’t settle for business-as-usual, behind-closed-doors politics. I’m not afraid to stand up and speak out for the majority of Americans who are angry at the current Democratic leadership in Washington.
- “The people of Massachusetts confirmed last week what we have been saying for a long time - the American people want a change in Washington and an end to big government solutions to problems like health care. I was proud to be an early supporter of Senator-elect Scott Brown’s campaign. It was a landmark victory and I look forward to working with him to block government-run health care, tax increases and increased federal spending.”

For coverage of the President’s State of the Union address, go to: www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/Jan2710H2.pdf. For a response from the ethanol industry, go to: www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/Jan2710H3.pdf

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