

For Immediate Release: *February 24, 2009*

Washington DC - U.S. Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-CA), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, made the following statement today regarding President Obama's Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal to Congress:

"In his recent address to Congress and the American people, President Obama focused his attention on the current financial crisis. On one hand, he said that Americans will have to make tough choices and funding for certain domestic priorities will need to be cut. On the other hand, he proposed billions of dollars in new federal spending.

"The budget proposal released today misses the mark on fiscal responsibility and, instead, promotes a domestic policy agenda that is dependent on a larger, more expansive federal government. One of the most troubling aspects of the President's budget is the increased tax burden for America's small businesses, most of which are struggling in today's economy. This will damage small businesses across the country, including many of the San Diego businesses that I represent which cannot afford any cost increases.

"Also, the President's defense budget proposal must be closely examined to ensure our national security priorities are adequately funded and we continue preparing for the threats of the future. With American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and other security threats on the horizon, it is critical that we provide the necessary level of funding in order to maintain a strong national defense."