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New Report Highlights Economic Growth

The mid-session review of the Federal Budget, released by the Office of Management and Budget, shows a significant decline in the budget deficit and continued job creation. The review found that the fiscal year 2005 deficit has declined to \$333 billion, \$94 bill less than originally projected. In addition, July's payroll report showed that 207,000 jobs were created last month. The unemployment rate also fell to 5 percent – the lowest since September 2001. The U.S. experienced 26 straight months of job creation.

“The continued decline of the budget deficit is good news for the American economy,” said McMorris. “With more money in their pockets and restrained spending by government, the American people have created millions of jobs and accelerated economic growth.”

McMorris Heads Home for August Recess

Congresswoman McMorris will take a break from legislating in D.C. and spend the month of August back in the Pacific Northwest. McMorris will be attending a number of events during her district work period and attending meetings with key representatives from the health, law enforcement, business, and education communities.

Recent Legislative Accomplishments

The House of Representatives has passed key legislation to help grow our economy; provide access to quality, affordable health care; and help ensure our national security:

[Transportation Equity Act](#) – provides \$29.6 million for local transportation projects in Eastern Washington including U.S. 395, I-90 and Hwy 12. [Click here](#) for a complete list of projects.

[Energy Policy Act of 2005](#) - lowers our dependency on foreign oil, lowers energy prices for consumers in the Pacific Northwest, and expands the development of renewable energy projects

[Central American Free Trade Agreement](#) – provides for fair trade with Central American region and provides new economic opportunities for small businesses, agricultural industry and manufacturers in Eastern Washington.

[The Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\) bills](#) - will ease regulatory burden and help make our small businesses more competitive.

[Small Business Health Fairness Act](#) - allows small businesses to band together through association health plans (AHPs) and purchase quality health care at a lower cost for their workers.

[The Health Efficient, Accessible, Low Cost, Timely Health Care \(HEALTH\) Act](#) - will bring common sense reform to outrageous liability rates and will protect patients' access to quality affordable health care.

McMorris is a co-sponsor of this legislation. [Click here](#) to read the Floor Statement she gave in support of the bill. .

Congresswoman Joins Property Rights Task Force

McMorris recently joined The Caucus Property Rights Task Force, designed to provide a forum for Members to discuss proposals for enhancing protection of private property rights while helping to draw attention to this critical issue. The Western Caucus believes that property rights are the foundation of a free society and that the federal government should be required to compensate property owners when regulations deprive them of the use of their property. The task force is being led by Congressman C.L. “Butch” Otter of Idaho.

National Report Card Shows Gains in Student Achievements

Data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), often referred to as “the Nation’s report card,” shows improved student test scores in mathematics and reading, with significant gains by minority students. McMorris is a member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

“This report is an indication that we are on the right track concerning the education of our children,” said McMorris. “It is clear that No Child Left Behind is helping create a culture of accountability in our schools. These are encouraging results, but there is still work to be done in order to lower achievement gaps.”

The report showed that in the last five years, students have made some of the greatest gains in the report’s 30 year history. America’s nine-year-olds are posting the highest scores ever in reading and math, thirteen-year-olds earned the highest math scores ever recorded, and African-Americans and Hispanics students achieved some of the greatest gains. [Read More](#)

Washington Delegation Sends Letter to Veterans Affairs Secretary

Congresswoman McMorris, along with members of the Washington delegation, sent a letter to Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson concerning the Veterans health care budget shortfall. In the letter the members offer to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to examine the situation and install better practices to prevent this from happening in the future.

“Now more than ever, our veterans need to know that their government stands behind them because they give so much,” said McMorris. “We have an obligation to ensure that they have the highest quality of life possible when they come home; they deserve nothing less.”

[Learn what other steps the Congresswoman has taken to support our Veterans.](#)