



The Honorable Charles B. Rangel, Chairman

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Ways & Means Committee, Secretary Geithner Pledge to Address Critical Economic Issues

Lawmakers discuss President's FY2010 Budget Proposal, investments in long-term economic growth

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Ways and Means Committee today held a hearing today to review President Obama's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Overview with Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner. The hearing focused on a number of economic policy issues under the Committee's jurisdiction. Committee Chairman Charles B. Rangel (D-NY) issued the following opening statement during today's hearing:

“Our nation is facing a crisis, and Congress finds itself in an historic role to act and strengthen our economy. We are very fortunate to have Secretary Geithner's leadership at the Treasury Department. Secretary Geithner has dedicated his life to this country and we welcome him before the Ways and Means Committee to share his ideas on the direction in which he and President Obama would like to take our great country. We can't promise you unanimity in Congress, but we can promise civility and honest debate as Republicans and Democrats come together to deal with the critical issues of this economic crisis.

“We have a major problem with our economy, and the fact that we inherited it doesn't mean we don't have the responsibility to work our way out of this crisis. We are going to be asking our constituents to sacrifice, but we know that we will be making major investments in the health of our country, the education of our children, and the improvement of our infrastructure, in order to build a stronger foundation for future economic growth. This means that painful decisions must be made. We look forward to working very closely with you, Mr. Secretary, because you can help reinforce the importance of what we are doing to get the votes in Congress, and help restore the confidence of the American people.”

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