

SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE

KENT CONRAD, CHAIRMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 4, 2007

Contact: Stu Nagurka (202) 224-7436
Steve Posner (202) 224-7925

STATEMENT BY SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KENT CONRAD (D-ND) ON VOTING AGAINST CONFIRMATION OF CONGRESSMAN JIM NUSSLE AS OMB DIRECTOR

“I am voting in the Senate today against the confirmation of Congressman Jim Nussle as the next OMB Director. I do not make this decision lightly. I voted in the Budget Committee for Mr. Nussle’s confirmation to move the process forward. But I can’t vote for his confirmation today.

“This is not a vote against Mr. Nussle personally. But I refuse to have my vote for Mr. Nussle portrayed as a sign of support for the President’s failed fiscal policy. Unfortunately, we have seen this administration repeatedly cite the vote in favor of confirming General Petraeus as an indication of support for the administration’s policy in Iraq. That is wrong.

“So I am voting against this nomination to send a signal – a signal to this administration that we cannot continue on this fiscal course. The President has pursued a failed fiscal strategy for nearly seven years now. He has run up a record debt. We have seen year after year of deficits and an explosion in federal debt – all at the worst possible time, just before the retirement of the baby boom generation. I hope this administration will get the message. It is time to change course.”

###