

**Statement for the Record
Congressman Baron P. Hill
FY2010 Budget Resolution
Committee on the Budget Hearing
March 11, 2009**

Thank you Chairman Spratt and Ranking Member Ryan for the opportunity to submit my thoughts on President Obama's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Resolution to the Committee. I applaud the President for presenting a budget to Congress that is honest and transparent. Unlike years past, President Obama has included war costs in his budget outline. The return to transparency in the budget process is welcome, and long overdue.

My primary concern about this budget is a real return to fiscal discipline. Although we are in a time of undeniable economic downturn, our massive deficit is threatening both our economic and national security. The economy was in dire need of a jumpstart – and I believe the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is just that – but it is time for Congress to actually live within a budget.

It is time for pay-as-you-go budgeting (PAYGO) to move from rules to the law of the land. It is time for Congress to make the tough budgeting decisions we were elected to do.

President Obama and members of his Administration have been very receptive to statutory PAYGO. I appreciate their willingness to work with me on this issue and certainly hope to see statutory PAYGO language in this budget resolution.

In the past, I have also voiced concerns about balancing budgets by tapping into the Social Security Trust Fund. I opposed the last two budgets for that very reason. I certainly hope this Administration will not jeopardize entitlement programs on which many Hoosiers rely.