THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

CONGRESS IS MOVING RAPIDLY TO COMPLETE ITS BUSINESS FOR THIS YEAR, AND ALREADY A MAJOR STEP HAS BEEN TAKEN TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

IN APPROVING THE SECOND BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR NEXT YEAR,

CONGRESS HAS ASSURED THAT SPENDING PRIORITIES WILL BE MAINTAINED

AND THAT OVERALL CONTROL OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET WILL BE FIRM.

THE BUDGET THAT WAS PASSED, MAKES \$17 BILLION DOLLARS IN SPENDING CUTS ACROSS THE BOARD, AND ALSO LAYS THE GROUNDWORK FOR A SUBSTANTIAL TAX CUT EARLY NEXT YEAR.

MORE IMPORTANLY HOWEVER, IS THAT THIS IS A REASONABLE AND RESPONSIBLE BUDGET, ONE WHICH MAINTAINS ESSENTIAL FUNDING FOR KEY PROGRAMS LIKE: THE ARMED SERVICES, UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION, TRADE READJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE, MEDICAID, MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY.

THIS EFFORT, ALONG WITH OUR CONTINUING PROGRAM TO REDUCE OIL

IMPORTS AND REPLACE THEM WITH COAL, GREATER OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL

PROGRAMS AND AGENCIES, ELIMINATION OF WASTE AND FRAUD, AND

DEREGULATION OF EXCESSIVE RED TAPE, WILL SURELY FIGHT INFLATION IN

EVERY ASPECT OF OUR NATION'S ECONOMY.

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.