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NICKLES, MILLER INTRODUCE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN

WASHINGTON—Senate Budget Committee Chairman Don Nickles today joined Sen. Zell Miller (D-GA) in introducing President Bush's economic growth plan in the U.S. Senate. The Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003 (S. 2) would cut taxes, grow the economy and create jobs.

"Growing the economy is the only hope we have of meeting long-term budget goals, protecting the homeland, and providing a modern health care system for our seniors," Nickles said. "The President recognizes this and has stepped up to the plate with a plan that is ambitious in scope and grand in vision.

"The package is pro-growth, pro-family and pro-jobs. It is good medicine for the economy today and sound long-term policy for tomorrow. I am pleased to join my friend Senator Miller in introducing it in the United States Senate."

The package includes three main components: tax relief for working families, elimination of the double-taxation on corporate earnings, and tax cuts to stimulate small business growth.

"Federal revenues have fallen for two consecutive years, leaving government with a 9 percent decline since 2000," Nickles pointed out. "That is an historic drop and is the reason we are facing deficits today. Reducing the tax burden on working families, eliminating the punitive and unfair taxes on investment, and helping small businesses grow will all ultimately lead to a healthier economy and more good-paying jobs."

The plan will:

Speed up tax cuts to speed up recovery. The bill leaves more money in consumers' wallets by speeding up the phase-in of tax cuts passed in 2001 - lowering rates, reducing the marriage penalty and increasing the child tax credit.

Encourage investment and corporate accountability. At present, if a corporation makes a profit, the government taxes the corporation. When the corporation distributes those earnings to shareholders as a dividend, the earnings are taxed a second time at the individual level. The bill eliminates this punitive double-taxation, ridding the tax code of a bias that skews corporate decision-making and increases the cost of capital.

Promote growth of small business - America's No. 1 job creator. The bill allows small businesses to write off higher levels of investment immediately, which will provide them with an incentive to grow and create jobs.