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Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
“Made in America: Innovations in Job Creation and Economic Growth”
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade
March 3, 2011

I want to thank the Chairman for holding this hearing. I am glad we are focusing on how we can create more jobs here in America.

Job growth must be our number one priority. But I am concerned that the policies being pursued by the House would have the opposite effect. They would eliminate jobs, not create them.

A recent analysis from Goldman Sachs concluded Republican spending cuts in the CR could significantly reduce U.S. economic growth, thereby decreasing job growth and further slowing down the recovery. An analysis from Moody's Analytics concluded that the Republican spending cuts could result in up to 700,000 fewer jobs by the end of the fiscal year.

Slower growth and fewer jobs are clearly steps in the wrong direction for this country.

American families are facing real economic pain. For millions, their jobs are gone; their savings depleted; their home values down; and their belief in the promise of the American dream diminished.

We have a responsibility to these Americans to not only keep moving along a path of job growth, but to act reasonably and responsibly to accelerate the growth of recent months.

So how do we get there? The President has called for the United States to out educate, out innovate, and out build our competitors. I believe we are up to the challenge.

In order to meet that challenge we need targeted public and private investments in key sectors that will grow our economy and create jobs.

One key sector is education. The United States is near the bottom of industrialized nations in math and science literacy. We must invest in science, technology, engineering, and math to compete with the rest of the world.

Another key sector is research and development. In order to retain America's competitive edge, we must always be planning for the future. Basic research must be advanced in all areas including manufacturing, biomedical, clean energy, cyber security, and information technologies.

Finally, we must invest in our infrastructure, both our physical infrastructure like crumbling roads and bridges and our virtual infrastructure encompassing computing, networking, and wireless spectrum.

I agree we need to put our nation's fiscal house in order. But we should not choke our economic recovery. That would be profoundly counterproductive. We're facing revenue shortfalls because we have fewer people working and contributing to the federal treasury. Boosting job growth and boosting consumer spending leads to increased federal revenues as more people return to the tax rolls. All of this leads us to the long term goal that we all share of protecting our fiscal future.

We must spend responsibly, but most importantly, in the short and mid-term, we must focus on growing our economy and creating jobs. We must focus on investing in education, innovation, and modern infrastructure to ensure we stay ahead of our competitors around the world.

Madam Chairman, I am glad we are having a hearing on job growth and I look forward to working in a bipartisan way to solve our pressing fiscal issues.