



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

DAVID R. OBEY, CHAIRMAN

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OBEY STATEMENT ON NEW UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBERS

"The unemployment numbers... are better than expected" but "It isn't Christmas yet on the job front"

WASHINGTON – Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, released the following statement today on the November jobs report:

“The unemployment numbers released today are better than expected. If they hold over the next several months, it will mean that we could be at the turning point for job creation. There is still a long way to go, but these numbers mean that we have gone from 700,000 jobs lost per month at the end of the Bush Administration, to 111,000 jobs lost last month, to only 11,000 jobs lost this month.

“There are two other good pieces of news in today’s report. Employers added 52,000 temporary jobs to their payrolls last month - which in an economic recovery is the first step that eventually leads to full time job additions - and average weekly wages have gone up about one percent, putting more money in people’s pockets.

“Undoubtedly, there will be further bumps in the road, but absent other negative events, this could be the beginning of a slow, but welcome, end to the worst economic collapse in 75 years.

“And while that is good news, these numbers show that the economy is still struggling and should remind us that there are still a lot of Americans who need help. We have an obligation to act upon that need. It isn’t Christmas yet on the job front.”

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