

"While the country may be divided politically, one thing that all Americans can agree on is far too many people are out of work and our economy remains in trouble. I think we all understand that the road this nation has taken over the last three years has been a failure. Government cannot spend its way to prosperity and we cannot tax our way back to low unemployment.

"I listened to the president's speech tonight looking for new ideas to rekindle economic growth. While I heard a few positive suggestions to lower business and payroll taxes, most of the president's proposals are simply repackaged stimulus spending already discredited by the lack of a meaningful recovery. That said, the door is certainly not closed if the president would like to work with Congress to pass legislation to encourage job creation.

"The House has already approved bills to resume domestic oil drilling, restoring jobs in the Gulf region and helping to ease gas prices. The House has already voiced support for broad-based tax reform to jumpstart investment and for rolling back costly federal regulations which burden business and discourage hiring.

"I am willing to work with anyone who wants to create jobs. I hope the president will also join the House in urging the passage of these measures to encourage an economic recovery."

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