



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI PRAISES STRENGTH OF AMERICAN ECONOMY AS WAGES
AND BENEFITS INCREASE; PRO-GROWTH POLICIES KEEPING
MONEY IN HANDS OF CONSUMERS***

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today said a new report by the Department of Labor shows that pro-growth policies enacted by this Congress “have kept money in the hands of American consumers, small businesses, and entrepreneurs and fueled economic growth while creating good, high-paying jobs.” Enzi’s comments came as the Labor Department reported that wages and benefits paid to American workers in the July-September quarter rose at the fastest rate in over two years.

“The Labor Department’s announcement that wages and benefits are up is proof positive that the pro-growth, low tax policies that Republicans have enacted are working,” Enzi said. “Gross domestic product (GDP) has risen steadily for the last five years. The economy has created jobs for 37 consecutive months. Wages and benefits for American workers have risen by 3.3 percent in the last 12 months.”

“The economy is strong and it is bringing higher paying jobs and new opportunities to working families,” Enzi added. “It is essential that we continue to strengthen the economy by controlling spending and reducing taxes.”

The report comes on the heels of a report by the Commerce Department that GDP grew 1.6 percent in the third quarter of 2006 – the 20th consecutive quarter of economic growth. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported earlier this month that payroll employment increased by 51,000 in September, dropping the nation’s unemployment rate to a low 4.6 percent.

Since August 2003, the U.S. economy has created 6.6 million new jobs. In the last 12 months, overall compensation to American workers has increased 3.3 percent, including a 4 percent jump in average weekly earnings, dramatically improving the standard of living for many Americans.

The economic outlook is strong, with 20 consecutive quarters of economic growth averaging 3 percent since Congress first enacted tax relief in 2001, and averaging 3.5 percent since Congress enacted additional tax relief in 2003. Pro-growth tax policies have also brought a surge in tax revenues, cutting the budget deficit in half three years ahead of schedule.

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