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Blue Dogs Welcome New Members

Markey, Murphy, Schrader bolster Coalition's efforts to bring fiscal responsibility, accountability to government

Washington, DC – Today, members of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition announced the addition of three new members. **Representatives Betsy Markey (D-CO), Scott Murphy (D-NY) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR)** will join the Coalition as the group bolsters its efforts to implement policies aimed at returning fiscal responsibility and accountability to the federal government.

“If we are going to return our country to a path of fiscal responsibility, it is going to require making some tough decisions. We have asked these members to join our ranks because they are committed to doing what it takes to restore fiscal restraint to the federal government,” said **Representative Jim Matheson (D-UT)**, Blue Dog Co-Chair for Communications. “I am pleased to welcome them into the Coalition, and I look forward to working together in the coming year as we continue our fight for statutory PAYGO, as well as a strong fiscal reform commission, both necessary steps to ensure the nation’s long term fiscal sustainability.”

“I’m proud to join the Blue Dog Coalition,” said Rep. Markey. “As a former small business owner, the Blue Dogs share my strong belief in fiscal discipline and responsibility. Colorado families and small businesses watch their bottom line and have to live within their means, and Congress should be no different. Our children’s futures cannot be built upon a foundation of debt. After years of mismanagement in Washington, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Blue Dog Coalition to strengthen our economy and bring fiscal discipline and responsibility back to our government.”

“I’m honored to join the Blue Dog Caucus,” said Rep. Murphy. “I look forward to working with the Blue Dogs to find fiscally responsible, common sense solutions that will create jobs and help bring our nation’s budget back into line.”

“As a small business owner for over 30 years, and a fiscal hawk from the state of Oregon, I understand the importance of sound fiscal policy,” said Rep. Schrader. “The Blue Dogs are committed to these same goals of aggressively reigning in our deficit, limiting our spending and paying down our national debt. I’m pleased to be a new member of the caucus.”

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“These new Blue Dogs have demonstrated their commitment to the core principals we share,” said **Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin** (D-SD), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Administration. “I look forward to working with our new members as we work to ensure the federal government has the tools it needs to reign in federal spending and get our fiscal house in order.”

The fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. The Blue Dogs are dedicated to a core set of beliefs that transcend partisan politics, including a deep commitment to the financial stability and national security of the United States. Currently there are 52 members of the Blue Dog Coalition. For more information, visit the Blue Dog Website at <http://www.house.gov/melancon/BlueDogs/>.

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