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January 25, 2011

WASHINGTON – Congressman Charles F. Bass (NH-02) issued the following statement this evening in response to President Obama's State of the Union Address to Congress.

Bass said:

"The President outlined an ambitious agenda for our nation tonight. I share his optimism and agree that the challenges facing our nation are bigger than party or politics.

"I welcome the President's call for greater fiscal responsibility, but we need to do more than just freeze the budget at this year's spending levels. Over the last few years, President Obama and the Democrats in Congress increased non-defense discretionary spending by 84 percent and have left us with unsustainable deficits, a weak economy, and higher unemployment. We must learn to live within our means, and we can start by cutting spending and then freezing it.

"We must also renew our efforts to make it easier for businesses – and not the government – to create jobs. There is a lot of economic uncertainty right now. Businesses are hesitant to hire new employees and expand their operations. They don't know what kind of crushing tax and regulatory burdens will be forced upon them by the health care law and other new programs President Obama and the Democrats in Congress have created over the last few years.

"By cutting federal spending and putting an end to unnecessary and oppressive regulatory mandates on job creators, we can move our economy forward. The House of Representatives has already taken the first step of repealing the flawed health care law; now we will begin to draft market- and patient-based policies that will give individuals greater choices in their health care decisions, and give small businesses and other job creators the certainty they need to grow.

"This evening, President Obama stressed the need for bipartisanship in solving our nation's problems. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on solutions that will grow our economy but won't expand the size and scope of the federal government."

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