

strengthen entitlements, and eliminate special tax breaks and loopholes so the wealthiest pay their fair share.

In my negotiations with House Speaker BOEHNER in December over the so-called “fiscal cliff,” I again offered a compromise proposal that was balanced and comprehensive, and would achieve our \$4 trillion deficit reduction goal. That proposal is still on the table. I am including it in this Budget to demonstrate my commitment to making the kind of tough and balanced choices that are needed to put our Nation’s finances in order.

To be clear, the package I am offering includes some difficult cuts that I do not particularly like. But these measures will only become law if congressional Republicans agree to meet me in the middle by eliminating special tax breaks and loopholes so millionaires and billionaires do their fair share to cut the deficit. I will not agree to any deal that seeks to cut the deficit on the backs of middle class families. I am willing to make tough choices that may not be popular within my own party, because there can be no sacred cows for either party. And I look forward to working with any member of Congress who takes a similar, balanced approach. This plan is built on the kind of common ground that Democrats and Republicans should be able to reach.

In total, the Budget will cut the deficit by another \$1.8 trillion over the next 10 years, bringing the deficit below 2 percent of GDP by 2023 and putting our debt on a declining path. This is not an end in and of itself—the best way to grow the economy and cut the deficit is by creating good middle class jobs. But this plan to reduce the deficit in a balanced way is a critical step toward ensuring that we have a solid foundation on which to build a strong economy and a thriving middle class for years to come.

Finally, this Budget continues my commitment to reforming and streamlining our Government for the 21st Century. It builds on my Campaign to Cut Waste by further targeting and eliminating wasteful spending wherever we find it. It reorganizes and consolidates agencies and programs to make them leaner and more efficient. It increases the use of evidence and evaluation to ensure we are making smart investments with our scarce taxpayer dollars. And it harnesses new technologies to allow us to do more with less.

No single Budget can solve every challenge and every problem facing the country. But this Budget shows how we can live within our means while growing our economy, strengthening the middle class, and securing our Nation’s future. It is not a Democratic plan or a Republican plan. It is an American plan. And it is a plan that I hope can serve as an outline for us to write the next great chapter of the American story . . . together.

BARACK OBAMA,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 10, 2013.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 254. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the development of hydroelectric power on the Diamond Fork System of the Central Utah Project.

H.R. 1033. An act to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1033. An act to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1060. A communication from the Chief of the Border Securities Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Definition of Form I-94 to Include Electronic Format” (RIN1651-AA96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1061. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Excepted Service—Appointment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, Severe Physical Disabilities, and Psychiatric Disabilities” (RIN3206-AM07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1062. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, “District of Columbia Agencies’ Compliance with Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals through the 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2013”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1063. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, “Audit of the Affordable Housing Mandates for Development Projects Formerly Managed by the Dissolved National Capital Revitalization Corporation and Anacostia Waterfront Corporation”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1064. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-670, “Pharmacy Technician Amendment Act of 2012”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1065. A communication from the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement

Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Railroad Retirement Board’s fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1066. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1067. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for External Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bureau’s fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1068. A communication from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the District of Columbia Family Court Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1069. A joint communication from the Chairman and the Acting General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s Buy American Act Report for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1070. A communication from the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s Annual Report on The Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1071. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “U.S. Department of Health and Human Services met Many Requirements of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 but Was Not Fully Compliant”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1072. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s fiscal year 2012 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1073. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-29, “Medical Marijuana Cultivation Center and Dispensary Location Restriction Temporary Amendment Act of 2013”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1074. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-40, “Tax Revision Commission Report Extension and Procurement Streamlining Temporary Amendment Act of 2013”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1075. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-30, “Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Temporary Amendment Act of 2013”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1076. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report