

STATE OF THE UNION DEJA VU: **NO CHANGE OVER PAST SEVEN YEARS**

Last night, President Bush delivered his last State of the Union Address. Instead of providing fresh, bipartisan ideas for his final year in office, the President offered no change from the past seven years and little leadership. In fact, many lines from the President's Address sounded remarkably similar to previous years. Despite the lack of innovative ideas from the President, Democrats will continue our fight for change, and work with Republicans to reinvigorate the economy, reduce global warming, and strengthen our nation's security.

REINVIGORATING THE ECONOMY

"As we meet tonight, our economy is undergoing a period of uncertainty."
- 2008 State of the Union

"As we gather tonight... our economy is in recession." - 2002 State of the Union

Under seven years of Bush's economic policies, we've gone from recession to recession, seeing little change for the average American. This year, household incomes are down, unemployment has increased, a record number of Americans lack health insurance, and costs for gas, groceries, and health care are rising. Bush also continued to make the mathematically challenged claim that the government should balance the budget by cutting \$18 billion in programs while extending trillions in tax cuts.

This year, Democrats want to work with the President to:

- Lower health care costs and increase quality
- Lower energy prices and create hundreds of thousands of new "green" jobs
- Bolster the housing market and help Americans keep their homes
- Make college more affordable and K-12 classrooms more successful
- Reduce the deficit, restore fiscal responsibility

REDUCING GLOBAL WARMING

"The United States is committed to strengthening our energy security and confronting global climate change." - 2008 State of the Union

"These technologies will help us be better stewards of the environment, and they will help us to confront the serious challenge of global climate change." - 2007 State of the Union

For seven years, President Bush has pledged to take action, but in reality has done little to reduce global warming and encourage investment in renewable energy.

This year, Democrats want to build on the landmark energy bill passed last year and work with the President to:

- Design a carbon cap and trade system
- Set a renewable electricity standard nationwide

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SECURITY

“One year ago, our enemies were succeeding in their efforts to plunge Iraq into chaos.” - 2008 State of the Union

“On this day, at this hour, it is still within our power to shape the outcome of this battle. Let us find our resolve, and turn events toward victory.” - 2007 State of the Union

The President's surge policy in Iraq has failed to produce its main objective of political reconciliation. The war in Iraq has cost thousands of American lives, stretched our military to the breaking point, and added billions to the national debt. Even though President Bush says each year that victory is around the corner, little progress has been made, and it is clear that a new direction in Iraq is needed to achieve real change.

This year, Democrats want to work with the President to:

- Redeploy our troops out of an open-ended civil war in Iraq
- Engage in a diplomatic surge in Iraq
- Bring any long-term security agreements to Congress
- Stop spending billions in borrowed money at the expense of priorities at home
- More effectively address Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, al Qaeda and other terrorist threats around the world
- Address the crisis in military readiness, which is at its lowest level since the Vietnam War