



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503**

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PORTMAN CONFIRMED AS OMB DIRECTOR BY U.S. SENATE

WASHINGTON – Today, the United States Senate confirmed Ambassador Rob Portman as the 35th Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Ambassador Portman issued the following statement:

"I am grateful for the bipartisan support my nomination received in the United States Senate, and I want to thank Chairman Judd Gregg, Senator Kent Conrad, Chairman Susan Collins, and Senator Joe Lieberman for their Committees' consideration and support. I also appreciate President Bush giving me another opportunity to serve the American people.

"During the confirmation process, I have spent a lot of time with Members of the Senate and the House discussing budget and management issues. I have listened carefully, and I've been encouraged by what I have heard. There is an interest on both sides of the aisle in taking steps to restrain spending and keep the economy strong -- the keys to immediate deficit reduction. But there is also a recognition that the longer term problem of unsustainable growth in entitlement programs – especially Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security – must be addressed.

"I am ready to roll up my sleeves and go to work, on a bipartisan basis, to tackle these fiscal challenges we face."

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