

### During Budget Debate, Holt Proposes Specific Programs to Cut; Opposes Irresponsible Slashing of Effective Innovation, Job Creation Programs

Washington – As the House of Representatives debates the FY2011 budget, U.S. Representative Rush Holt spoke in favor of a responsible budget that cuts wasteful spending, while maintaining needed investments in innovation, education, and sustainable energy – investments vital to ensuring American competitiveness in the 21st century. In contrast to President Obama’s budget proposal – which follows up on his State of the Union pledge to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world – the Republican spending plan would cut jobs, threaten innovation, and weaken American global competitiveness.

“We should not spend indiscriminately. Wise, fact-based government action can reduce the deficit by avoiding wasteful and unnecessary spending and costly tax expenditures, while still increasing opportunity broadly, ensuring fairness, and enriching the lives of all Americans through smart investments,” Holt said. “I am always looking for ways to reduce our deficit, whether we can trim agricultural subsidies that overwhelmingly benefit agribusiness, end unnecessary Department of Defense weapons systems, or reduce the federal government’s reliance on contract workers.”

Throughout the year, Holt will urge the House of Representatives to consider proposals to cut specific wasteful programs from the budget. This week Holt urged the House to end the F-35 alternate engine program, which neither Secretary of Defense Gates nor President Obama has requested. Terminating this wasteful program would save at least \$1.9 billion. On Wednesday, Holt joined a majority of the House to eliminate the unnecessary program.

Holt also tried to eliminate \$1.5 billion in taxpayer funds slated for the Iraqi Security Forces. The Iraqi Security Force fund pays for, among other things, the training and equipping of Iraq’s police force. Holt believes that Iraq’s oil revenues – rather than American taxpayer dollars – should be used to train, equip, and pay Iraq’s own police force. Despite identifying the need to eliminate the wasteful spending, only 16 Republicans voted for Holt’s amendment and it did not pass.

While supporting thoughtful budget cuts, Holt strongly opposes irresponsible and draconian cuts to education, research, and energy programs.

“Creating lasting jobs and making the economy strong remains our number one priority. It

comes from investing in education and fostering research and development. We will not compete in the 21st century and lead in the global economy without a well-trained, well-educated workforce and without focusing on the kind of innovation that made us a great nation to begin with," Holt said.

Holt is working to oppose severe cuts to the following programs:

The Office of Science at the Department of Energy, which is the single largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences in the United States, providing more than 40 percent of total funding for national research programs in high-energy physics, nuclear physics, and fusion energy sciences.

The Math and Science Partnership Program, which is a major research and development effort that supports innovative partnerships to improve K-12 student achievement in mathematics and science.

The Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP), which is the only federally funded program that supports targets foreign language instruction in elementary and secondary schools.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which provides matching funds to states and communities to preserve open spaces. The LWCF State Assistance program has aided local recreation projects in over 98 percent of all U.S. counties, including the preservation of over 73,000 acres of land in New Jersey alone. This land has been used to clean up playgrounds, build baseball fields, develop waterfront parks, and restore open spaces. This is land that otherwise may have been developed for private use or otherwise rendered unusable.

###

